United Nations S/2017/53

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 January 2017
English
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Letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic for 14-17 January 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (14 January 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, five ceasefire regime agreements have been signed with populated areas in Damascus governorate (three) and Ladhiqiyah governorate (two).

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,120.

Activities have continued for the extension of the ceasefire regime to the eastern Qalamun region in Damascus governorate.

In conjunction with the Syrian authorities, ceasefire agreements have been concluded in Jayrud and Qatana.

Through the good offices of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides, the Syrian authorities reached an agreement for opposition forces from Jayrud and Qatana and also from Nasiriyah and Ruhaybah — populated areas which had earlier joined the reconciliation process — to take part in combat operations against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists.

The total population of Jayrud, Qatana, Nasiriyah and Ruhaybah is approximately 120,000 people. The Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides facilitated the delivery of drinking water, food and urgent necessities to these populated areas. The residents are receiving medical assistance.

In Ladhiqiyah governorate, ceasefire agreements have been concluded with armed opposition groups from Farshad and Qarnadah.

The number of armed groups which have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 104.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

From 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The following armed opposition units joined the ceasefire: Faylaq al-Sham, Front for the People of the Levant (Army of Mujahidin, Revolutionaries of the Levant), Sultan Murad Brigade, Idlib Army, Hawks of the Levant, Rahman Corps, Levant Front, Fa'istaqim group, Jaysh al-Izzah, Victory Army, First Coastal Division, Army of Islam and Martyrs of Islam Brigade.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated

agreement reported two violations: one in Aleppo governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The Turkish representative office reported 16 violations in the following governorates: 8 in Aleppo, 6 in Damascus and 2 in Homs.

Investigations of these incidents have revealed that six violations were committed by the Nusrah Front. The other 10 violations have not been confirmed by Russia.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours two humanitarian operations have been carried out, during which over 1.7 tons of humanitarian cargoes — food, medicine and school supplies — were delivered to civilians in the Zahra' district of Aleppo city and the Zahra' district of Homs city.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for residents from the eastern districts of Aleppo city.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (15 January 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Ma'arrin and Btammush in Ladhiqiyah governorate and Tayyibah in Damascus governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,123.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups which have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 104.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

From 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The following armed opposition units joined the ceasefire: Faylaq al-Sham, Front for the People of the Levant (Army of Mujahidin, Revolutionaries of the Levant), Sultan Murad Brigade, Idlib Army, Hawks of the Levant, Rahman Corps, Levant Front, Fa'istaqim group, Jaysh al-Izzah, Victory Army, First Coastal Division, Army of Islam and Martyrs of Islam Brigade.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement reported nine violations: five in Hama governorate and four in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The Turkish representative office reported 11 violations in the following governorates: 5 in Aleppo, 2 in Damascus, 2 in Idlib and 2 in Hama.

Investigations of these incidents have revealed that one violation was committed by a group from the Nusrah Front. The other 10 violations have not been confirmed by Russia.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours no humanitarian operations have been carried out.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for residents from the eastern districts of Aleppo city.

Additional information

In conjunction with the Syrian authorities, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides is continuing activities for the recovery of the water supply to the Syrian capital city of Damascus and for the extension of the ceasefire regime to the Wadi Barada area of Damascus governorate.

On 13-14 January 2017, following negotiations with the command of illegal armed groups, repair crews began work for the rehabilitation of the water supply station in Ayn al-Fijah which had been permanently disabled since the start of January 2017 as a result of terrorist sabotage. According to the Syrian authorities, normal water supply to Damascus city should resume in the next few days.

Ceasefire agreements have been signed by two of nine populated areas in the Wadi Barada area formerly controlled by militias: Husayniyah and Burghuliyah. The remaining seven populated areas — Kafr al-Awamid, Suq Wadi Barada, Dayr Qanun, Dayr Muqrin, Kufayr al-Zayt, Basimah and Ayn al-Fijah — have expressed their desire to join the ceasefire regime.

A total of 1,268 fighters have left these populated areas. Most of them have laid down their weapons and returned to civilian life. The remainder were given an opportunity to depart safely with their families to Idlib governorate.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (16 January 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, six ceasefire agreements have been signed with Daliyah (central Dali), Daliyah (eastern Dali) and Daliyah (western Dali) in Ladhiqiyah governorate, and with Khunayfis al-Dusah, Tayyibat al-Turki and Tall al-Jadid in Hama governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,129.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with field commanders of armed groups in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of illegal armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 104.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

From 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The following armed opposition units joined the ceasefire: Faylaq al-Sham, Front for the People of the Levant (Army of Mujahidin, Revolutionaries of the Levant), Sultan Murad Brigade, Idlib Army, Hawks of the Levant, Rahman Corps, Levant Front, Fa'istaqim group, Jaysh al-Izzah, Victory Army, First Coastal Division, Army of Islam and Martyrs of Islam Brigade.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement reported four violations in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The Turkish representative office reported nine violations in the following governorates: four in Damascus, three in Aleppo and two in Hama.

In the course of the investigation of these incidents, Russia was unable to confirm these violations.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours no humanitarian operations have been carried out.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for residents from the eastern districts of Aleppo city.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (17 January 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, five ceasefire agreements have been signed with Abu Rujaylah (Burujaylah) and Bayt Ana in Ladhiqiyah governorate, and with Nawa, Siba' and Tirad in Hama governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,134.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with field commanders of armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of illegal armed groups which have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 104.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

From 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The following armed opposition units joined the ceasefire: Faylaq al-Sham, Front for the People of the Levant (Army of Mujahidin, Revolutionaries of the Levant), Sultan Murad Brigade, Idlib Army, Hawks of the Levant, Rahman Corps, Levant Front, Fa'istaqim group, Jaysh al-Izzah, Victory Army, First Coastal Division, Army of Islam and Martyrs of Islam Brigade.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement reported six violations in Ladhiqiyah governorate (three) and in Hama governorate (three).

The Turkish representative office reported 13 violations in the following governorates: 6 in Damascus, 2 in Idlib, 2 in Hama, 1 in Aleppo, 1 in Dar'a and 1 in Homs.

In the course of the investigation of these incidents, the Russian representative office confirmed two violations of the ceasefire regime. The remaining 11 violations have not been confirmed.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Seven humanitarian operations have been carried out over the past 24 hours, during which the following humanitarian cargoes were delivered: over 4.4 tons of humanitarian aid — food, medicine, clothing and school supplies — to civilians in Aleppo city (in the Nawayqu, Ghassaniyah, Qasiliyah, Khalil al-Qabbani, Iskandarun and Karm al-Da'da districts, and at the A. Muhammad School in the Shaykh Maqsud district); and 500 rucksacks with stationary and toys to the Sulayman School in the Zahra' district of Homs city.

Centres providing hot meals and supplying urgent necessities are continuing to operate for residents from the eastern districts of Aleppo city.

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Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to transmit for your attention the report on the activities carried out by government agencies of the Republic of Armenia for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-00863 (E) 250117

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Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Activities carried out by government agencies of the Republic of Armenia for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000)

In 1998, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No. 242 of 15 April 1998 on the main provisions of the Programme for Improving the Status of Women in the Republic of Armenia and Decision No. 406 of 26 June 1998 on approving the 1998-2000 National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing their Role in Society. On 8 April 2004, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No. 645-N on approving the 2004-2010 National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing their Role in Society and the List of Actions of the 2004-2010 National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing their Role in Society. Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 5 on approving the Concept Paper on Gender Policy was endorsed at the government session of the Republic of Armenia on 11 February 2010. Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 19 on approving the 2011-2015 Gender Policy Strategy Paper and the 2011 Gender Policy Action Plan was endorsed at the session of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on 20 May 2011. Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 23 on approving the National Action Plan on Combating Gender-Based Violence, the 2011-2015 Strategy Paper for Combating Gender-Based Violence and the 2011 National Action Plan on Combating Gender-Based Violence was endorsed at the government session of the Republic of Armenia on 17 June 2011.

In the Republic of Armenia, the State policy on equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men is carried out in accordance with the provisions stipulated in those documents.

The main guarantees of equal rights for women and men are provided in the fundamental law of the State, the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (which entered into legal force on 22 December 2015). Pursuant to article 30 thereof, women and men shall have equal rights, and pursuant to subpoint 4 of article 86, one of the main purposes of State policy is to promote actual equality between women and men.

The instrument for achieving equal rights for women and men is the Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men adopted on 20 May 2013 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, which establishes the main principles and approaches of the policy on equal rights for women and men in the country.

Within the scope of the aforementioned laws and strategy papers, measures have been implemented in line with the commitments assumed under a number of provisions of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Major outcomes of the National Action Plan on Combating Gender-Based Violence and the 2011-2015 Strategy Paper for Combating Gender-Based Violence, as per the target areas defined under the strategy

Prevention of gender-based violence

For the purpose of preventing domestic violence, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Social Assistance on 17 December 2014, which defines the concept of "domestic violence" and includes relevant provisions on providing social assistance to persons subjected to domestic violence.

Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No. 144-A/1 on approving the Criteria for the Preliminary Identification of Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence was adopted on 20 October 2015.

Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No. 177-A/1 on approving the Guidelines for Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence was adopted on 10 December 2015.

The purpose of the above-mentioned two documents is to promote the process of identifying and guiding persons subjected to domestic violence and providing them with social services, as well as to provide bodies conducting the identification of persons subjected to domestic violence with relevant instruments and methodologies.

Training courses have been held for 100 health-care practitioners from the provinces for the purpose of enhancing the skills of specialists from medical institutions in identifying cases of gender-based violence and in providing guidance.

Topics relating to gender-based violence have been included in the criteria for and the syllabus of the subject "social science" to provide a basis for teaching on gender-based violence and for teaching methodology in that regard. The course "healthy lifestyle" is taught in the eighth to eleventh grades of general education schools, with 14 hours dedicated to the course by each class per year. The course provides learners with information on the two genders and the relationships between them, on gender-based violence, as well as on the basics of a healthy lifestyle and preparation for family life.

For effective coordination of the activities carried out to protect the rights of people in the Republic of Armenia — young persons, women and girls — and to combat domestic violence, within the scope of the reforms being made in the police by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to the Order of the Head of Police of the Republic of Armenia of 16 February 2013, the former Division for Combating Juvenile Crimes of the General Department of Criminal Intelligence of the Police of the Republic of Armenia has been replaced with the Department for the Protection of Juvenile Rights and Combating Domestic Violence of the Police of the Republic of Armenia.

During past years, within the scope of the reforms being implemented in the police of the Republic of Armenia, the role and significance of women in strengthening the system, in enhancing the role of the police in society and in building trust has sharply increased.

As a result of consistent efforts, nearly 20 per cent of the general staff in the different subdivisions of the police of the Republic of Armenia are women, and nearly 5 per cent of them hold senior and chief positions. Today, women are actively engaged in the community police, as well as in the external and operative services.

There has also been a sharp increase in the number of female applicants and trainees at the educational complex of the police of the Republic of Armenia in recent years; currently, they make up nearly 30 per cent of the total number of trainees.

In the context of the implementation of reforms in the police of the Republic of Armenia, the activities being carried out for women's involvement are ongoing.

Action plan for protecting the rights of women and ensuring equal opportunities for women within the defence system of the Republic of Armenia

	Activities	*Executors (co-executors)/status*	*Time frame*
1.	**For the purpose of creating the conditions necessary for ensuring the protection of the rights of women and providing equal opportunities for women within the defence system, importance is attached to the conduct of periodic research and surveys, objective assessment of the results of such research and surveys and, on that basis, submission of recommendations on creating more favourable conditions for women's involvement.**		
1.1	Conduct sociological surveys among servicewomen (on existing problems, social-psychological adaptation, relations with fellow servicemen and other topics) and, on the basis of those surveys, draft recommendations regarding revision of the policy.	Department of Information and Public Affairs, Department for Activities with Personnel, military educational establishments (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, regularly (but not less than once a year)
1.2	Conduct surveys among society (on the image of servicewomen, their role, public confidence in them and other topics) and, on the basis of those surveys, submit recommendations regarding change of public opinion.	Department of Information and Public Affairs (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, if necessary
1.3	For the purpose of studying the issues that wives of servicemen experience and the reasons impeding their swift integration into the military environment, conduct surveys of the families of servicemen and at military settlements (only upon consent) and submit recommendations, on the basis of those surveys.	Department for Activities with Personnel, Department of Information and Public Affairs, Department of Social Protection of Servicemen (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, if necessary

Activities	*Executors (co-executors) status*	*Time frame*
2. Protection of the rights of women and the provision of equal opportunities for women in the defence system must be anchored in the development of educational capacities and enhancement of awareness, paying special attention to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other related resolutions, as well as other issues related to protection of rights of women.		
2.1 Include in curricula, modules and international courses information relating to the protection of the rights of women and the provision of equal opportunities for women in the defence system and in related sectors.	Personnel and Military Education Department, military educational establishments (Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners) Partially completed. Educational materials on the rights of women in the armed forces have been included, as a special section, in the curriculum for the subject "Human rights in the armed forces".	Starting from September 2016. Teaching and educational materials will be regularly revised and updated.
2.2 Undertake measures (including with the assistance of international organizations and interested non-governmental organizations) on the training of professors and lecturers and preparation of educational materials on the aforementioned topics.	Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners, Personnel and Military Education Department, upon recommendation or own initiative	Starting from January 2016, if necessary
2.3 Based on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other related resolutions, organize training courses on the protection of the rights of women, the protection of women wounded in military operations and other related topics for personnel participating in peacekeeping missions.	Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners), Peacekeeping Brigade (upon recommendation of commanders or on own initiative)	Starting from January 2016, if necessary
2.4 Organize training courses for the personnel of the military police on the protection of the rights of women within the defence system (also engaging representatives from the Investigative Committee and the Military Prosecutor's Office, upon agreement).	Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners), military police (upon recommendation or own initiative) Partially completed. These issues were discussed during the lectures on human rights in the armed forces held for the personnel of the military police in 2014-2015.	Starting from January 2016, if necessary

Activities	Executors (co-executors) status	Time frame
3. Increasing the involvement of women in the defence system is in the interests of the State because it enables the State to benefit from the professional capacities of a social resource otherwise unjustifiably left out of the sector. Thus, there is a need to take steps to specify the conditions and standards for the involvement and advancement of women in the defence system, to expand their areas of involvement and increase the level of their participation in decision-making.		
3.1 Define the physiological-biological and other gender-based criteria used to restrict women from holding certain offices.	Combat Readiness Department, Military Medical Department, Personnel and Military Education Department, with respect to defining the criteria (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016 until January 2017
3.2 For the purpose of ensuring the involvement of women in the policy development and decision-making process within the defence system, undertake steps to increase the number of women in the composition of advisory bodies, commissions, committees and working groups set up within the framework of the Ministry of Defence or with the participation of the Ministry of Defence, by ensuring that women make up at least 10 per cent of participants in each of them.[a]	Department of Defence Policy, Strategic Planning Department, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity and other subdivisions in charge of the formation of bodies	Starting from January 2016
3.3 In case of an increase in the number of servicewomen in the armed forces, consider making records of the special needs of women when planning public procurement for the needs of the armed forces.	Material and Technical Procurement Department, Rear Department, Military Medical Department, Department of Financial Budgeting and Planning	Starting from January 2016
3.4 Review the existing legal acts regulating the issues relating to the involvement of women in the defence system, making appropriate alterations, if necessary.	Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners), Legal Department, other subdivisions, if necessary	Until the end of 2018
3.5 Promote initiatives on involving women in different subdivisions of the armed forces, by paying special attention to the involvement of women in subdivisions participating in peacekeeping missions.	All subdivisions, with respect to aspects pertaining to their activities Territorial military commissariats, by way of notice from reserve or through public awareness	Starting from January 2016

[a] For the purpose of avoiding the replacement of members in established bodies, the option of engaging women as observers or additional members may be considered.

Activities	*Executors (co-executors)/status*	*Time frame*
	The commander of the Peacekeeping Brigade, also by considering international experience Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners)	
4. For the purpose of ensuring the protection of the rights of women and providing equal opportunities for women within the defence system, it is necessary to create an appropriate system of values and principles and establish mechanisms for monitoring the protection of that system		
4.1 For the purpose of forming the right views on the role of women within the defence system, organize meetings and discussions with different circles of society, which will be held with the participation of women involved in the defence system, female cadets of military educational establishments, women veterans of the war and field experts. If possible, also organize conferences with the participation of international experts.	Department of Information and Public Affairs, military commissariats, other subdivisions (within the scope of their competence), Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, but not less than once a year
4.2 For the purpose of monitoring the protection of the rights of women and ensuring equal opportunities for women in the defence system, form a mixed group (with equal involvement of women and men from different subdivisions). The activities of the group must be targeted at disclosure of cases of gender discrimination in the defence system, identification of causes and submission of recommendations on avoiding such cases.	Department of Defence Policy, Department for Activities with Personnel, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, military police (with the involvement of international partners), with respect to establishing a monitoring group and elaboration of instrumentation for monitoring Other subdivisions, if necessary	Starting from January 2016

United Nations S/2017/55

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2017

Original: English

Senegal: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of The Islamic Republic of The Gambia, and recalling the importance of the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

Recalling the Statement of its President on 21 December 2016 on Peace consolidation in West Africa and the Press Statement of its Members on 10 December 2016 on the Gambia elections,

Recalling the relevant provisions of Article 23 (4) of the African Union (AU) Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the provisions of the Supplementary Protocol of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on Democracy and Good Governance,

Congratulating the Gambian people for the holding of the peaceful and transparent Presidential election on 1 December 2016,

Noting the official results of the elections of 1 December 2016 issued by the Gambian Independent Electoral Commission which proclaimed the election of Mr. Adama Barrow as President, and which the former President of The Islamic Republic of The Gambia, Mr. Yahya Jammeh, himself publicly recognized and accepted on 2 December,

Strongly condemning the statement by former President Jammeh, on 9 December rejecting the December 1 official election results and the takeover of the Independent Electoral Commission by the Gambian Armed Forces on 13 December 2016, and the attempt by the Parliament on 18 January 2017 to extend President Jammeh's term for three months beyond his current mandate,

Condemning in the strongest possible terms the attempts to usurp the will of the people and undermine the integrity of the electoral process in The Gambia,

Condemning the attempt to prevent a peaceful and orderly transfer of power to President Barrow by declaring a state of emergency,

Expressing grave concern at the risk of deterioration of the situation in the Gambia, *recalling* that the Gambian government bears primary responsibility for protecting human rights and protecting the civilian population in The Gambia and

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demanding that all stakeholders and parties act with maximum restraint, refrain from violence and remain calm,

Commending the declaration of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) at its 647th meeting held on 13 January 2017 that as of 19 January 2017, outgoing President, Yahya Jammeh, will cease to be recognized by the AU as legitimate President of the Republic of the Gambia,

Taking note of the communiqué of the Chairman of the African Union on 10 December 2016 and the joint Communique of The ECOWAS Commission, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) on 10 December 2016,

Commending the initiatives of ECOWAS, including the visit of a ECOWAS/UN high level delegation in Banjul on 13 December 2016, led by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Chairperson of the ECOWAS authority, aimed at ensuring a peaceful and orderly transition of process in The Gambia, as well as the ECOWAS high level delegation in Banjul on 13 January 2017,

Further welcoming the efforts of His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, President and Commander in chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the ECOWAS Mediator in the Gambia and His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama, former President of the Republic of Ghana as the Co-chair,

Recognizing the important mediation role of Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS),

Commending and strongly supporting the continued efforts of the African Union and ECOWAS to promote peace, stability and good governance in the Region,

1. *Urges* all Gambian parties and stakeholders to respect the will of the people and the outcome of the election which recognized Adama Barrow as President-elect of The Gambia and representative of the freely expressed voice of the Gambian people as proclaimed by the Independent Electoral Commission;

2. *Endorses* the decisions of ECOWAS and the African Union to recognize Mr. Adama Barrow as President of the Gambia;

3. *Calls upon* the countries in the region and the relevant regional organisation to cooperate with President Barrow in his efforts to realize the transition of power;

4. *Welcomes* the decisions on The Gambia of the Fiftieth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority held in Abuja on 17 December 2016 and the decisions of The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 644th meeting held on 12 December 2016 and its 647th meeting held on 13 January 2017;

5. *Welcomes further* the decisions of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), declaring the inviolable nature of the outcome of the presidential elections held on 1 December 2016 in The Gambia, calling upon former President Yahya Jammeh to keep to the letter and spirit of the speech he delivered on 2 December 2016, in which he welcomed the maturity of democracy in The

Gambia and congratulated the President, Adama Barrow, and declaring further that, as of 19 January 2017, outgoing President Yahya Jammeh will cease to be recognized as legitimate President of the Republic of The Gambia;

6. *Expresses* its full support to the ECOWAS in its commitment to ensure, by political means first, the respect of the will of the people of The Gambia as expressed in the results of 1st December elections;

7. *Requests* former President Jammeh to carry out a peaceful and orderly transition process, and to transfer power to President Adama Barrow by 19 January 2017 in accordance with the Gambian constitution;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance that the safety of President Adama Barrow, and that of all Gambian citizens be fully ensured, and noted the decision of ECOWAS Fiftieth Session in this regard;

9. *Requests* all stakeholders, within and outside The Gambia, to exercise restraint, respect the rule of law and ensure the peaceful transfer of power;

10. *Further requests* the Gambian defence and security forces to demonstrate maximum restraint to maintain an atmosphere of calm in the Gambia and stresses their duty and obligation to place themselves at the disposal of the democratically elected authorities;

11. *Requests* the Secretary General to update the Security Council on the implementation of this resolution within ten (10) days after its adoption;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, including through his Special Representative, to facilitate, as appropriate, political dialogue between the Gambian stakeholders in order to ensure peace in The Gambia and respecting the outcome of the Presidential election as recognized by ECOWAS and African Union, and to provide technical assistance to the ECOWAS mediation where required;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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20 January 2017

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (n)
General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 17 January 2017, on the necessity of bringing to justice those found responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 98 (n), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-00948 (E) 250117

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Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the necessity of bringing to justice those found responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria

The use of chemical weapons in Syria, as confirmed in the reports of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, is a blatant violation of international law, and all found responsible for these crimes should be brought to justice.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine considers the introduction of targeted sanctions by the United States of America in connection with the use of chemical weapons in Syria to be an adequate tool in this context.

Against the background of increasing challenges and threats to international peace and security, Ukraine continues to attach an essential priority to the strengthening of international regimes of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the prohibition of certain types of such weapons. We consistently advocate strict adherence to the provisions of key international instruments in this field to which Ukraine is a State party, including the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

Being a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Ukraine supports the need for the Council to introduce further restrictive measures under the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in response to the violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

United Nations A/71/754–S/2017/57

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Seventy-first session
Agenda items 32 and 37

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 19 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the latest provocation by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia along the State border with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On 12 January 2017, an explosive device consisting of an electric detonator, a detonation cord, a large amount of shrapnel and batteries for activation was identified in the territory of the Tovuz district of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the vicinity of the State border. The explosive device, prohibited under the relevant international instruments, was thrown into the area by an unmanned aerial vehicle belonging to the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia and was aimed at targeting both the civilians residing in the area and the servicemen of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan deployed there.

This is not the first instance of such despicable acts by the Armenian side; it is in addition to numerous grave violations of international humanitarian law amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide committed by its armed forces and subordinate military and paramilitary formations in the course of the conflict.

Suffice it to recall what happened on 14 July 2011 in the village of Alibayli of the same Tovuz district of the Republic of Azerbaijan, bordering with the Republic of Armenia. That day, as a result of the blast of an explosive device built in a toy, a 13-year-old Azerbaijani girl, Aygun Shahmaliyeva, was killed and her 32-year-old mother, Elnara Shahmaliyeva, was seriously wounded. The toy stuffed with an explosive device was found by the victim in the Tovuz River, which springs from the territory of Armenia and flows through the village of Alibayli. The booby-trap

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toy was made in Armenia, was dropped in the river intentionally and its target was children of the neighbouring Azerbaijani settlements (see A/65/915-S/2011/457).

Against the background of its persistent refusal to engage in substantive and result-oriented negotiations on the resolution of the conflict, the recent provocative action of throwing an explosive device by an unmanned aerial vehicle, which was resorted to by the Armenian side two weeks after an attempted incursion by its armed forces through the State border into the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see A/71/740-S/2016/1140), is yet further proof of Yerevan's deliberate attempts to increase tensions, escalate the situation on the ground and obstruct the peace process.

As we have repeatedly stated, the only way to achieve a durable and lasting solution is to ensure the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and from other occupied territories of Azerbaijan. That is what international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions demand. The implementation of that peremptory obligation, which emanates in accordance with Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations from the principle of non-use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any State, can in no way be conditioned, introduced as a compromise or used as a bargaining chip in the conflict settlement process.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2017/58

Security Council

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20 January 2017

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Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the thirty-fifth submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2258 (2015) and paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2332 (2016), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on the data available to United Nations agencies on the ground, from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, other Syrian sources and open sources. Data from United Nations agencies on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the period from 1 to 31 December 2016.

Box 1
Key points in December 2016

(1) After a fierce escalation of fighting throughout the month, on 30 December a nationwide ceasefire went into effect that, notwithstanding some breaches, reduced levels of violence.

(2) More than 116,000 people were displaced from formerly besieged areas of eastern Aleppo. Some 80,000 people registered in government-controlled areas, including areas formerly besieged, and 36,000 people were evacuated from eastern Aleppo to the western Aleppo countryside and Idlib between 15 and 22 December. The United Nations provided life-saving assistance to those who were displaced from or who have since returned to eastern Aleppo. After the removal of eastern Aleppo from the list of besieged locations, some 700,000 people remain besieged across the Syrian Arab Republic.

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(3) One inter-agency convoy delivered assistance to 6,000 of a total of 930,250 people requested under the December inter-agency convoy plan for the month (less than 1 per cent).

(4) The fighting that led to civilian deaths and the displacement of 7,000 people in the Wadi Barada area also cut off an estimated 5.5 million people in Damascus and surrounding areas from the main water supply.

(5) The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 12 attacks against medical facilities, and the United Nations verified 5 attacks against educational facilities.

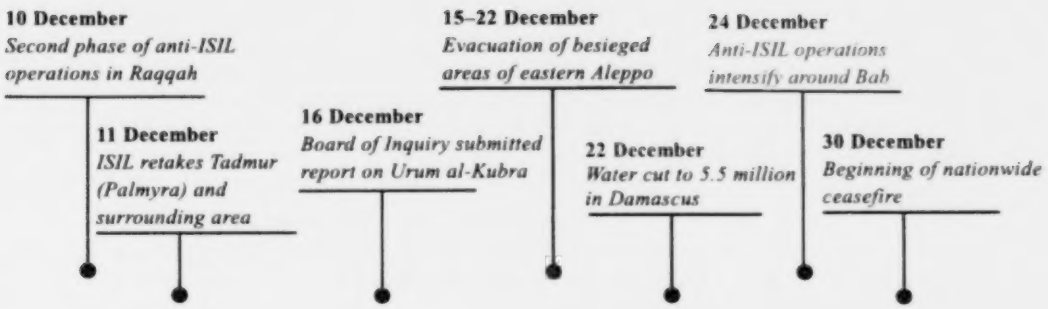
II. Major developments

3. There was intense military activity throughout the country, in particular in and around the city of Aleppo, but also in the Aleppo countryside and in Damascus, Dayr al-Zawr, Homs, Idilb, Raqqah and Rif Dimashq governorates. Hospitals and schools continued to be attacked. On 30 December, however, a nationwide ceasefire went into effect that, notwithstanding some breaches, reduced levels of violence. The Russian Federation and Turkey, the ceasefire guarantors, wrote to the Security Council indicating that the ceasefire is aimed at fostering the conditions necessary for establishing political dialogue, reducing violence, preventing casualties among civilians and providing unhindered humanitarian access. The Council unanimously adopted resolution 2336 (2016) on 31 December, in which it welcomed and supported the efforts undertaken by the Russian Federation and Turkey.

4. The ceasefire was brokered a week after the complex and large-scale evacuation of civilians from the eastern part of the city of Aleppo. The evacuation, which began on 15 December, occurred after a month of heavy aerial bombardment and ground operations in which 95 per cent of the formerly besieged areas of eastern Aleppo were retaken by government forces and non-Syrian allied forces. Heavy fighting resulted in significant death and destruction, with abuses and violations documented by both sides. Hundreds of civilians were reported missing by their families after leaving areas previously held by non-State armed opposition groups. Their fate remains unknown. The exact number of those missing or killed in the airstrikes and ground fighting is impossible to assess.

5. Between 15 and 22 December, 36,000 people were evacuated to the western Aleppo countryside and Idlib in 294 buses, 1,262 private vehicles and 61 ambulances. The evacuation was undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and observed by the United Nations at a point controlled by the Government. In areas beyond the city, humanitarian organizations and health actors provided assistance to the evacuees, which was coordinated by the United Nations.

Figure I
Key dates in December 2016


10 December
Second phase of anti-ISIL operations in Raqqah
11 December
ISIL retakes Tadmur (Palmyra) and surrounding area
16 December
Board of Inquiry submitted report on Urum al-Kubra
15–22 December
Evacuation of besieged areas of eastern Aleppo
22 December
Water cut to 5.5 million in Damascus
24 December
Anti-ISIL operations intensify around Bab
30 December
Beginning of nationwide ceasefire

6. The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2328 (2016) on 19 December, in which it called for the evacuations to be conducted in accordance with international humanitarian law and principles and requested that the United Nations and other relevant institutions observe the evacuations and the well-being of civilians in the eastern districts of the city. The role of the United Nations in the evacuation consisted of four main elements: observation of the evacuation from a point along the exit corridor, support for evacuees once they had left, the provision of assistance to those remaining in the formerly besieged areas of the city and ongoing humanitarian support for those in need in the remainder of the city. Before and after the adoption of the resolution, the United Nations ensured that it had a 24-hour presence to observe the evacuation.

7. Once the evacuees had left government-controlled areas, cross-border support was provided by the United Nations and its humanitarian partners. A total of 13,951 people visited the reception centres set up in Atarib (Aleppo) and Sarmada (Idlib) for humanitarian assistance and information centres in Urum al-Kubra and Kafr Naha to receive basic services and details about additional humanitarian support. The World Health Organization and its health partners arranged medical evacuation and treatment in hospitals in the Syrian Arab Republic and coordinated with the Government of Turkey to transfer some urgent cases to Turkey. A total of 811 patients were medically evacuated to hospitals for treatment, including 100 critical cases who were evacuated to hospitals in Turkey. In addition, 26 mobile clinics visited 80 locations and provided 8,836 consultations. The World Food Programme (WFP) and partners provided food to those displaced. Some 18 United Nations partner organizations provided winter kits and other essential items. Water trucking was increased to cover 18 informal settlements and two communities, and diesel, chlorine and infrastructure rehabilitation was provided to informal settlements.

8. For those displaced to government-controlled areas, support was provided from the United Nations hub in Aleppo, in close collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and local partners. From 24 November to the end of December,

80,158 civilians were registered in government-controlled areas, including 37,271 in eastern Aleppo neighbourhoods and 38,637 people in western Aleppo, while 4,250 were displaced to the Jibrin collective centre. The number of those registered as displaced in government-controlled areas is expected to increase further. Those who registered were provided with food, with some 20,700 of those displaced receiving a hot meal twice a day in the old city, in the Hannanu and Mahalij neighbourhoods, as well as at the Jibrin collective centre. A total of 40,000 bread bundles were distributed daily, as were food baskets and ready-to-eat rations. Nearly 70,000 people received non-food items, such as winter kits. A total of 250 tons of emergency medical supplies were provided, along with seven mobile clinics and 12 mobile teams to provide medical care.

9. The evacuation of Aleppo was negotiated alongside a parallel evacuation of 4,000 people from the besieged villages of Fu'ah and Kafraya. Those evacuations were initiated, but only 15 buses were able to evacuate 1,226 people. A total of 21 buses and their drivers that had entered the towns to undertake further evacuations remained stranded inside the besieged area after negotiations broke down and they were not permitted to leave. Those who were able to leave went to the Hisyah subdistrict in Homs and Ladhiqiyah. The United Nations and its partners provided support to the 769 people who went to the Hisyah camp, including food rations, family clothing and children's clothing kits and medical support.

10. The evacuation of civilians also occurred as local agreements were reached between the Government and non-State armed opposition groups in several areas in Rif Dimashq and Homs governorates. Following an agreement in the hard-to-reach location of Tall al-Jayir, an estimated 2,700 fighters and accompanying family members were evacuated to Idlib between 2 and 4 December. Further implementation of the agreement moved slowly, with civilian and commercial movement remaining limited after the agreement was reached. Other local agreements were reached in Kanakir on 14 December, in Zakiyah and Dayr Khabiyah on 17 December and in Talbisah on 20 December, but they were related primarily to settling the legal status of individuals and ending hostilities and did not involve movements of people.

11. On 15 December, fighting intensified in the Wadi Barada area outside Damascus, displacing an estimated 7,000 residents who fled to nearby villages amid reports of a lack of water, food and basic services. Since 22 December, the fighting has also cut off an estimated 5.5 million people in Damascus and surrounding areas from the main water supply after the two primary sources of drinking water, Wadi Barada and Ayn-al-Fijah, were damaged. They normally provide water to 70 per cent of the population in and around Damascus.

12. Within the city of Damascus, the water authority has initiated a rationing system under which each neighbourhood receives water through the supply network every five to six days for three to four hours. This water is provided from groundwater wells located across the city. Nevertheless, the water provided is sufficient to meet only some 30 per cent of the daily water needs of residents. Many people are resorting to purchasing water from private companies, with prices and quality not subjected to regulation. In addition, at least 715,000 people living in elevated areas on the outskirts of Damascus are not reached regularly with water. The United Nations Children's Fund is supporting and equipping the wells, trucking

water to 84 schools in Damascus and the surrounding areas and providing 15,000 litres of fuel daily to operate water facilities. Negotiations continue between the parties to resume the water supply, although the United Nations is not a party to these talks.

13. Fighting continued around Bab and Aleppo governorate, intensifying in late December with reports of attacks resulting in the deaths of more than 100 civilians since 22 December. The fighting also displaced an estimated 30,000–35,000 civilians from Bab and surrounding areas towards the districts of I'zaz, Jarabulus and Manbij. An estimated 5,000 to 8,000 civilians remained in Bab and were reportedly facing difficult conditions under the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), including severe restrictions on movement.

Box 2
Wa'r

(1) Wa'r is a neighbourhood in the north-west of Homs, with some 50,000 inhabitants, and is the only remaining neighbourhood in the city not under the control of the Government. It had seen regular humanitarian access from December 2015 to March 2016 under a local agreement that included the evacuation of at least 300 fighters and their family members. The agreement broke down in March, in part as a result of disagreements on its implementation, including the release of detainees, which led to increased constraints on access and freedom of movement. As a result, Wa'r was classified as besieged in May 2016.

(2) The United Nations team in Homs conducted a joint humanitarian assessment on 7 December in Wa'r with ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Access was made possible under an agreement with relevant parties. Participants noted a significant deterioration in the overall humanitarian situation since the previous inter-agency mission, on 26 October. Immediate humanitarian intervention is required to prevent the people of the besieged neighbourhood from facing acute shortages of basic and life-saving materials and the collapse of the already limited medical services.

(3) Since 26 November, access has been severely restricted, with medical evacuations not being permitted. Previously, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent was able to transport urgent cases out of Wa'r, with the approval of local authorities. Public sector employees, students and non-governmental organization (NGO) volunteers were allowed to move in and out but prevented from carrying food with them through the checkpoints.

(4) Although the security situation was relatively calm, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported two ground-based strikes on civilian infrastructure, including the Hasan ibn al-Haytham elementary school, the Syrian civil defence centre and a charity working with orphans. There had previously been reports of shelling from Wa'r into other parts of Homs.

14. The anti-ISIL operation in Raqqah led by the Syrian Democratic Forces entered its second phase on 10 December and continued to displace civilians. The Forces were active in the western countryside, gaining control of the Jarniyah subdistrict, in fighting that displaced some 10,000 people. Most of them were able to return after fighting had subsided. Nevertheless some 30 civilian homes were reportedly destroyed. The United Nations continues to request approval from the Government to move supplies out of the Qamishli hub to provide assistance to those displaced by the fighting.

15. The United Nations and its partners continued to deliver assistance to those along the berm on the Jordanian-Syrian border. Since the resumption of that assistance on 22 November, 33,992 individuals have received food and non-food items, including winterization materials. The health clinic at the new service facility near Rukban became fully operational and is providing health assistance to the most vulnerable cases within the berm community. Newly constructed water infrastructure was on schedule to begin providing water at the new distribution site in February 2017.

16. On 9 December, ISIL launched a broad offensive on eastern rural Homs. On 11 December, the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic confirmed that Tadmur (Palmyra) had fallen back under ISIL control. Additional areas saw fighting, including Huwaysis, the Jazal and Arak oilfields, Burj and Muhr hills, the Tar mountains and the village of Bi'r Marhitan, displacing a total of 5,165 people in December. This total includes the majority of the 2,750 individuals who had returned to Tadmur (Palmyra) earlier in 2016. An estimated 1,500 people moved to Homs, where they received food and other support from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. WFP provided food rations to 2,754 newly displaced persons both in the city of Homs and eastern rural Homs governorate. Some civilians reportedly remained in Tadmur (Palmyra) and faced protection concerns. More displacement was expected as fighting continued.

17. The United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry into the attack on a United Nations-Syrian Arab Red Crescent relief operation to Urum al-Kubra on 19 September submitted its report to the Secretary-General on 16 December. The United Nations released to the public a summary on 21 December, which was also brought to the attention of the Security Council (S/2016/1093). In the public summary, the United Nations stated that the Syrian Arab Red Crescent compound had been subject to an attack from the air, using multiple types of munitions deployed from more than one aircraft and aircraft type. The Board found that 17 trucks had been struck, at least 10 individuals killed, including 5 drivers who had been part of the convoy and the head of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Urum al-Kubra, and at least 22 other individuals injured. Most of the humanitarian supplies carried by the convoy had been damaged or destroyed in the incident, with the losses incurred by the United Nations country team totalling almost $650,000. The Board noted that aircraft operating as part of the forces of the international coalition, the Russian Federation and the Syrian air force had the capabilities needed to carry out such an attack. It found that no party had alleged the involvement of international coalition forces aircraft and, accordingly, their involvement was highly unlikely. In addition, it stated that it had received reports that information existed to the effect that the Syrian air force was highly likely to have perpetrated the attack but was unable to draw a definitive conclusion in the absence of access to relevant raw data.

Protection issues

18. The protection of civilians has been consistently identified as a significant area of concern in all governorates, with some 13.5 million people in need of protection and assistance. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure continued, including against medical personnel and facilities, and against schools, education staff and school children. Threats from explosive ordnance, threats against women and the most vulnerable civilians, such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as other violations and human rights abuses, were also reported.

19. On the basis of information received by OHCHR, the reported killing of civilians and other abuses and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law continued. Violence occurred in various locations, including Aleppo, Damascus and Dar'a, Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah, Homs, Idlib, Raqqah and Rif Dimashq governorates (see table 1). OHCHR documented incidents by all parties to the conflict, including government forces, non-State armed opposition groups and designated terrorist groups.

20. In addition to violations documented by OHCHR, the Government continued to provide OHCHR with information on alleged violations. In a note verbale dated 27 December, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic provided OHCHR with a list of incidents that had allegedly occurred in from 5 to 12 December in Aleppo, Damascus, Dayr al-Zawr and Hama governorates. A total of 51 civilians were reportedly killed and dozens injured, including women and children. Casualties were reported as a result of mortar and rocket fire. In a second note verbale dated 28 December, the Permanent Mission provided OHCHR with a list of incidents that had allegedly occurred from 19 to 26 December in Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a and Dayr al-Zawr governorates. A total of 17 civilians were reportedly killed and dozens injured. Casualties were reported as a result of mortar and rocket fire, explosive gas canisters, landmines and cluster munitions.

Table 1
Reported strikes against civilians, December 2016[a]

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
Aleppo governorate					
4 December	Hallak (eastern Aleppo)	–	4, and 1 abduction	–	–
6 December	Masakin al-Firdaws (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	5	At least 12	Residential
7 December	Maysalun	Ground strike	3, including 2 children		
8 December	Kallasah, Ma'adi, Firdaws and Sayf al-Dawlah (eastern Aleppo)	Air and ground strikes	At least 40	Scores	–

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
9 December	Bab	Air strikes	At least 18, including 2 women and 6 children	At least 8	Residential
9 December	Jalum (eastern Aleppo)	Air strikes	At least 25, including 6 women and 9 children	–	–
12 December	Various districts of eastern Aleppo	Gunshots	At least 82, including 11 women and 16 children	–	–
14 December	Jamiliyah (western Aleppo)	Ground strike	3, including 1 child	–	–
18 December	Bab	Ground strike	3, including 1 child	At least 2	Residential
22 December	Bab	Air strike	At least 95, including women and children	At least 47	Residential
23 December	Bab	Air strike	At least 24, including women and children	68	–
27 December	Bab	Air and ground strikes	4	6	Residential
28 December	Bab	Mines	At least 4 women and 1 child	–	–
29 December	Bab	Mines	6 children	–	–
30 December	Bab	Air and ground strikes	At least 10	15	Residential
Damascus governorate					
21 December	Maliki and Abu Rummanah (Damascus city)	Ground strike	–	At least 2	Residential
29 December	Jawdat al-Hashimi (Damascus city)	Ground strike	–	At least 6	–
Dar'a governorate					
11 December	Dar'a al-Balad (Dar'a city)	Ground strike	2 children	–	Residential
Dayr al-Zawr governorate					
2 December	Jurah (Dayr al-Zawr city)	Ground strike	1 woman and 1 child	4	Residential

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
5 December	Border area (Syrian Arab Republic/Turkey)	Gunshot	1	–	Border area
7 December	Harabish (Dayr al-Zawr city)	Gunshot	1 child	–	–
11 December	Khusham	Air strikes	At least 4	–	Residential
13 December	Jurah (Dayr al-Zawr)	Ground strike	1 woman and 1 child	–	Residential
20 December	Muh Hasan	Air strikes	4, including 1 woman	2	Residential
23 December	Hatla	Air strikes	3 women and 2 children	–	Residential
27 December	Hajnah	Air strikes	At least 14, including 2 women and 3 children	15	Residential
Hasakah governorate					
7 December	Qamishli	Improvised explosive device	6	3	Road
Homs governorate					
19 December	Wa'r	Ground strikes	–	2 children	School
Idlib governorate					
18 December	Fu'ah	Gunshot	1	–	Buses 15 km south of town
Raqqah governorate					
5 December	Jarniyah	Air strike	6	–	–
5 December	Border area (Syrian Arab Republic/Turkey)	Gunshot	1	–	Border
6 December	Abbarah	Air strike	3, including 1 child	–	–
7 December	Mushayrifah	Air strike	18, including women and children	8	Residential
9 December	Muzaylah	Air strike	At least 28, including 3 women and 4 children	–	Residential
12 December	Dallah (ar-Raqqa city)	Air strike	At least 21, including 1 woman and 5 children	–	–

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
20 December	Hay al-Thani (Tabaqah city)	Air strike	4 including 1 woman and children	At least 10	–
Rif Damashq governorate					
5 December	Madaya	Ground strike	4, including one child	20	–
11 December	Duma	Air and ground strikes	At least 4	–	Residential
23 December	Wadi Barada	Ground strike	At least 8	Up to 10	Residential
29 December	Duma	Air and ground strikes	At least 14, including 2 women and 6 children	–	Residential
29 December	Irbin	Air strike	4, including 1 woman and 2 children	19	Residential

Source: OHCHR.

[a] In line with resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of developments on the ground relates to the compliance with resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Cessefire of the International Syria Support Group. The list is not exhaustive.

21. The United States Department of Defense publicly confirmed that, in December, the coalition led by the United States of America had carried out at least 303 strikes against ISIL targets in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah, Homs and Raqqah governorates, 145 of which were said to have taken place near Raqqah. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation continued to publicly confirm the presence of Russian forces in the Syrian Arab Republic. On 20 December, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation and Turkey issued a joint statement on agreed steps to revitalize the political process to end the Syrian conflict, in which they reiterated their determination to fight jointly against "ISIL" and "Jabhat al-Nusra" and to separate them from non-State armed opposition groups in the Syrian Arab Republic.

22. OHCHR documented violations and abuses committed by government forces and their allies and by non-State armed opposition groups during the final days of the government offensive in the city of Aleppo and during the subsequent evacuations of civilians and fighters out of areas recently taken over by government forces and their allies. There are concerns that many people who lived in eastern Aleppo during the besiegement remain unaccounted for to date. An unknown number of people died during the besiegement, in particular during the final days of the conflict when strikes intensified.

23. Reports indicated that some non-State armed opposition groups had actively prevented civilians from leaving areas under their control. For example, between 30 November and 1 December, non-State armed opposition groups fired on civilians from the vicinity of Bustan al-Qasr attempting to leave towards government-controlled Mashariqah. OHCHR received preliminary information on similar

incidents and is investigating them. During the first weeks of December, prior to the Government taking full control of Aleppo, an unknown number of civilians were reportedly abducted and others killed by non-State armed opposition groups, apparently after the civilians had asked them to leave. OHCHR also received credible reports of civilians being killed by militias allied with the Government. The killings allegedly occurred when the militias took control of the Bustan al-Qasr, Firdaws, Hallak, Kallasah and Salihin neighbourhoods that had previously been held by non-State armed opposition groups and where a significant number of civilians remained after the groups' sudden withdrawal on 12 December.

24. Hundreds of civilians were reported missing by their families after having left areas previously held by non-State armed opposition groups; their fate remains unknown. On 26 December, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation announced the discovery of mass graves containing bodies bearing signs of torture in areas previously not under government control. OHCHR was unable to confirm or deny those allegations at the time of writing and was investigating them. Hundreds of government soldiers held by non-State armed opposition groups in areas of Aleppo previously under their control also reportedly went missing and their fate remains unclear.

25. During the evacuations from Aleppo, Fu'ah and Kafraya, there were reports of civilians being attacked. The United Nations received credible reports of Iranian pro-government militias stopping a 20-bus convoy of some 800 people on 16 December. Two fighters and a member of the civil defence were reportedly killed. All valuables, along with identity cards and mobile phones, were removed from the individuals in the convoy. The men were forced to lie face down and insulted and beaten. After approximately four hours, the convoy was allowed to proceed, except for 14 people who were ordered to return to eastern Aleppo, along with the bodies of the three men killed. On 18 December, a convoy of empty buses en route to the besieged towns of Fu'ah and Kefraya was attacked at a checkpoint in Sarmin, some 15 km to the south of the towns. Non-State armed opposition groups allegedly set fire to eight buses and shot and killed a driver who was attempting to escape. Seven other drivers were reportedly being held by the groups responsible.

26. In addition to the immediate threats, there are also longer-term protection concerns for those who have been displaced following months or years of concentrated military activity. It is imperative that the property rights of displaced persons be respected and that displaced persons have the right to voluntarily return in safety to their homes or places of habitual residence as soon as is feasible.

27. In blatant disregard for the protected status of medical facilities under international humanitarian law, further articulated by the Security Council in its resolution 2286 (2016), such facilities continued to be damaged or destroyed as a result of fighting. The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 12 attacks against medical facilities in December, comprising 4 on hospitals (2 in Aleppo, 1 in Dar'a and 1 in Idlib), 2 on primary health-care centres (1 each in Aleppo and Rif Dimashq), 1 on a mobile field hospital (Aleppo) and 5 on ambulances (4 in Rif Dimashq and 1 in Aleppo). Primary, secondary and tertiary health-care services continued to experience severe gaps in performance and service delivery, owing to the extensive damage caused to health facilities, the rapid turnover of health staff and the lack of qualified professionals in different

specialized medical fields. Paediatric and maternal health services, including routine vaccinations, remained negatively affected.

28. Educational facilities also continued to be subject to attacks, with five attacks reported by the United Nations. On 5 December, the Nusha primary school in Karm al-Nusha, Aleppo, sustained serious damages in an air strike. On 6 December, a mortar bomb landed on the roof of a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) school, which is also used as a distribution facility at the Neirab camp in the government-controlled area 13 km east of the city of Aleppo. Although no injuries were reported, material damage was caused to the facility. Educational activities in the camp were suspended until 12 December. On 19 December, in the Wa'r neighbourhood of Homs, the Hasan ibn al-Haytham elementary school and a teacher training institute were among the buildings damaged by ground strikes. Two children in the school were also lightly injured. On 22 December, a school in Atarib, Aleppo, was hit by an air strike and partially damaged. On the same day, sporadic shelling occurred in the city of Dar'a, with a mortar bomb landing near the Kafr Kina governmental school during an UNRWA-run afternoon shift. One UNRWA teacher was injured and taken to hospital and the school evacuated.

Humanitarian access

Box 3
Key points

(1) An inter-agency convoy delivered assistance to 6,000 of a total of 930,250 people (less than 1 per cent) requested under the inter-agency convoy plan for December. More than 23,000 medical items were removed from the convoy.

(2) On 21 December, the Security Council adopted resolution 2332 (2016), in which it authorized the extension of the cross-border mandate until 10 January 2018.

(3) The inter-agency convoy plan for January was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 December. A response was received on 29 December, in line with the agreed review period under the current two-step approval process. A total of 697,700 of the 914,000 requested beneficiaries (76.3 per cent) under the plan were approved in full or in part. Five locations in Rif Dimashq, Hajar al-Aswad (besieged), Wadi Barada, Qabun, Tadamun, and Bayt Jinn, were denied.

(4) Some 697,000 beneficiaries were assisted with food commodities by the United Nations and its partners via cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey.

(5) The United Nations continued its airlift and airdrop operations to Qamishli and the city of Dayr al-Zawr. Since the beginning of operations in 2016, the United Nations has completed 168 airdrops of food commodities and humanitarian assistance over the city of Dayr al-Zawr and more than 248 airlift rotations to Qamishli from Damascus.

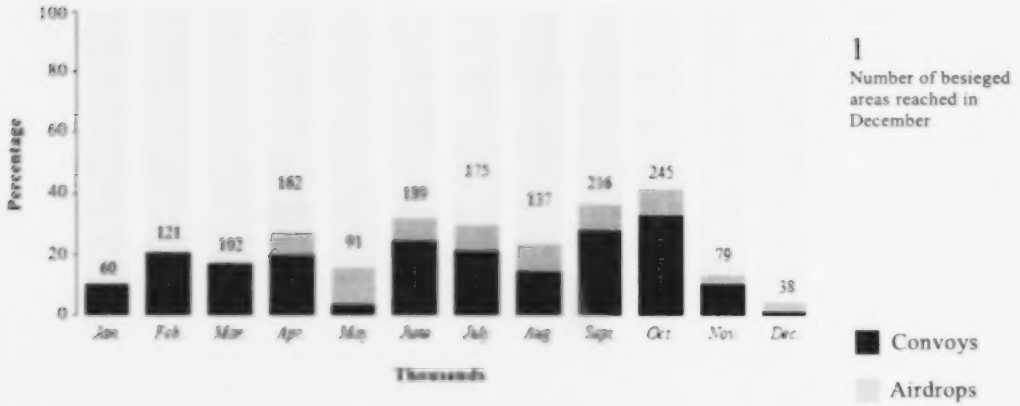
29. The delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need of such assistance remained extremely challenging in many areas as a result of active conflict, shifting

conflict lines and deliberate restrictions on the movement of people and goods by the parties to the conflict.

30. Access to the millions of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach locations remained of critical concern. As a result of delays in the issuance of facilitation letters, requirements for additional government and security approvals above and beyond the two steps agreed to with the Government in April, lack of adherence to agreed-upon protocols at checkpoints and insecurity, only one inter-agency convoy reached a total of 6,000 people in Khan al-Shih, Rif Dimashq (see table 5). This total constitutes less than 1 per cent of the 930,250 people to whom access had been requested under the plan. However, in addition to that inter-agency road convoy, the United Nations continued to provide assistance to besieged and hard-to-reach areas through single-agency convoys, airdrops and airlifts. Moreover, NGOs continued to provide medical, education and protection services, as well as some support in other sectors, in hard-to-reach locations under extremely challenging circumstances.

Figure II

United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations: number of people reached each month in besieged areas, including via airdrops to the city of Dayr al-Zawr



31. Deliberate interference and restrictions by the parties to the conflict continued to prevent aid delivery. WFP continued to be unable to gain access to populations in need in ISIL-controlled areas, given that all plans to deliver assistance to those areas had been suspended owing to the inability to work independently and monitor activities. This situation is preventing WFP from reaching Raqqah and most of Dayr al-Zawr governorates, as well as pockets of northern rural Aleppo, southern rural Hasakah and north-western rural Hama governorates. Meanwhile, in Hasakah governorate, airlifts to Qamishli were temporarily put on hold during the first week of December for aircraft maintenance. Consequent delays in replenishing food stocks in WFP warehouses in Qamishli meant that only 32 per cent of the dispatch plan for the month could be achieved during the December cycle. Moreover,

UNRWA has been unable to return to Yalda/Yarmouk since 25 May 2016, owing to security concerns on the ground.

Table 2
United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations from 1 January to 31 December 2016

1,293,750 people reached

People reached in hard-to-reach areas	People reached in besieged areas	People reached in priority cross-line areas
817,100	419,650	57,000
20.9% People reached in hard-to-reach areas	43.1% People reached in besieged areas	13 of 16 Besieged locations reached
Cross-line convoys	Airlifts	Airdrops
131	248	168

32. The removal of life-saving medicines and medical supplies from humanitarian aid convoys continued. Life-saving and life-sustaining medical items sufficient for 23,207 treatments were removed from the inter-agency convoy to Khan al-Shih. The treatments and supplies removed from that convoy during the month of December are shown in table 3.

Table 3
Medical supplies removed from humanitarian convoys in December 2016

Location	*Number of treatments*	*Type of supplies*
Khan al-Shih	23 207	Pneumonia kits A and B; minor surgery instruments (surgical kit); injectable analgesics, antiseptics, bronchodilator (inhalers), antipyretic/analgesics syrup

33. Under the United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for December, access was requested to 21 locations, including besieged locations, with the aim of reaching 930,250 people. In its response on 1 December, the Syrian authorities approved access to 798,200 of those requested beneficiaries (85.8 per cent) in full or in part. A total of 132,050 beneficiaries (14.2 per cent) requested under the plan were denied or not included.

34. On 19 December, the United Nations submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the inter-agency convoy plan for January, which comprised 19 requests to reach 914,000 people in need across 21 besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line areas. A response was received on 29 December, in accordance with the agreed two-step approval procedures. A total of 697,700 of the requested beneficiaries (76.3 per cent) were approved in full or in part, while 216,300 requested beneficiaries (23.7 per cent) were not included.

35. The Nusaybin/Qamishli crossing in Hasakah governorate has been temporarily closed by the Turkish authorities since 27 December 2015 because of security concerns. Hasakah also remains largely inaccessible by road for United Nations agencies from within the Syrian Arab Republic owing to insecurity and the presence of ISIL members along the routes. The United Nations continues with airlifts from Damascus to Qamishli airport to deliver multisectoral assistance, with some 59,000 people reached in December, including 7,500 Iraqi refugees from Mosul assisted in the Hawl refugee camp.

Humanitarian response

36. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need through all modalities from within the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders (see table 4). NGOs also continued to deliver valuable assistance to people in need in line with previous months. The Government continued to provide basic services to those areas under its control and in many areas beyond its control.

Table 4
Number of people reached by United Nations organizations, December 2016

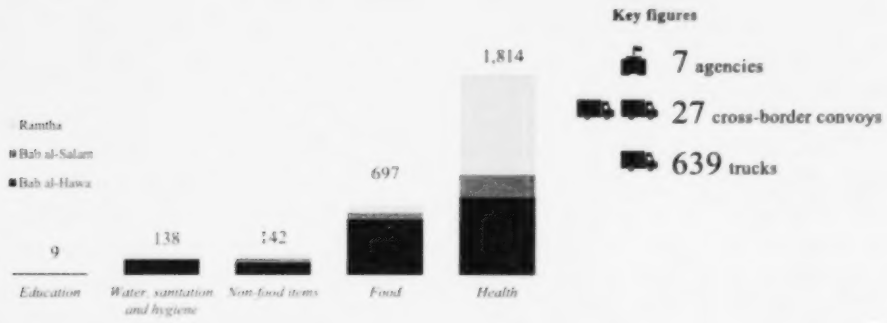
Organization	*People reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	146 934
International Organization for Migration	89 320
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	710 891
United Nations Children's Fund	>2 000 000
United Nations Development Programme	1 126 679
United Nations Population Fund	253 522
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	450 000
World Food Programme	3 540 000
World Health Organization	1 061 510

37. Cross-border deliveries continued from Turkey and Jordan into the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015) (see figure III). In addition, on 21 December, the Security Council adopted resolution 2332 (2016), in which it authorized the extension of the cross-border mandate until 10 January 2018. In line with these resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including its content, destination and number of beneficiaries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations, monitoring 639 trucks used

in 27 convoys, confirming the humanitarian nature of each and notifying the Syrian authorities after each shipment. The Mechanism continued to benefit from excellent cooperation with the Governments of Jordan and Turkey.

Figure III
Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners per cluster through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, December 2016

(Thousands)



38. The inter-agency convoy to the besieged location of Khan al-Shih listed in table 5 was completed on 16 December, providing multisectoral assistance to 6,000 beneficiaries. Moreover, from 10 April to the end of December, the United Nations completed 168 airdrops of food commodities and humanitarian assistance over the city of Dayr al-Zawr. In addition, the logistics cluster continued airlifts to Qamishli from Damascus, with more than 248 airlift rotations having been completed since 9 July. United Nations agencies also undertook single-agency deliveries to cross-line and hard-to-reach locations or reached those locations through their regular programmes.

Table 5
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian convoy, December 2016

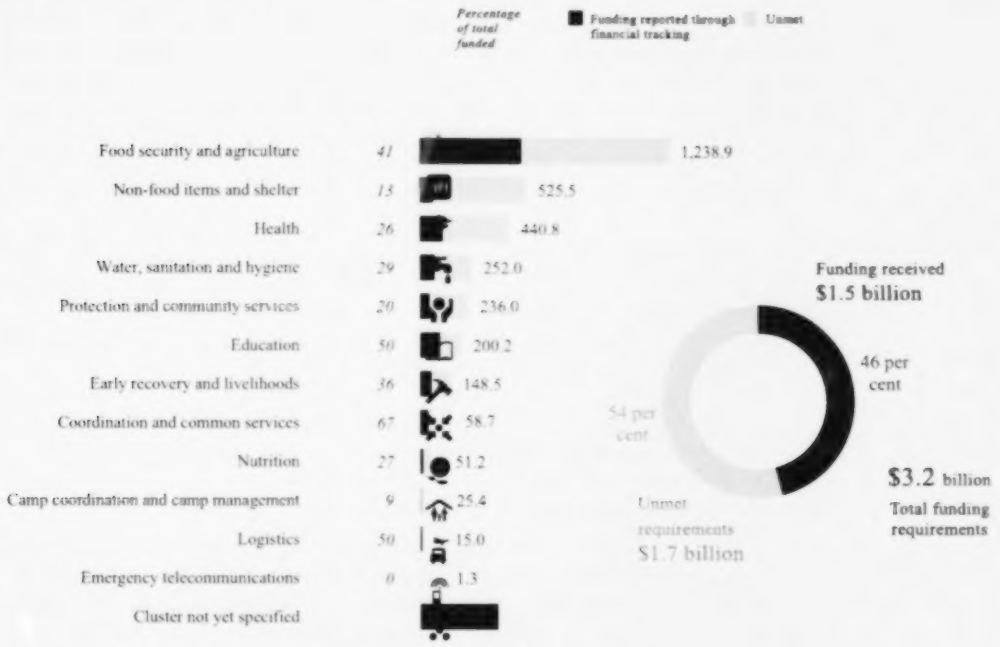
Date	*Location*	*Requested target (number of beneficiaries)*	*Targeted people reached*	*Type of assistance*
16 December	Khan al-Shih	6 000	6 000	Multisectoral

39. The United Nations implemented the accelerated routine immunization campaign via cross-border operations in the northern Syrian Arab Republic. As a result, some 104,000 children were vaccinated in Jarabulus and elsewhere in Aleppo governorate. In addition, 279,118 children under 1 year of age were vaccinated with DTP3, 287,289 with polio III and 367,873 with the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. In eastern Aleppo, six mobile teams comprising 40 health workers reached 2,823 children with routine immunizations, 10,355 children with polio vaccines and 5,748 women with tetanus vaccines.

Humanitarian response plan funding

40. The status of the funding of the humanitarian response plan as at 31 December is shown in figure IV.

Figure IV
Humanitarian response plan funding, 31 December 2016
(Millions of United States dollars)



Visas and registrations

41. A total of 14 new visa requests from United Nations staff members were submitted to Syrian authorities. A total of 18 requests were approved, comprising 2 submitted in December and 16 older applications, while 42 applications made over a period of several months remain pending. Moreover, a total of 31 visa renewal requests were submitted during the month. A total of 67 renewal applications were approved, of which 26 were submitted in December. No visa renewal requests were rejected. Some 10 visa renewal requests remain pending, of which 5 were submitted in December.

42. A total of 17 international NGOs are registered with the Government to operate in the country. Four more are completing registration. Those organizations continued to face administrative hurdles and restrictions that affect their ability to operate, including in gaining permission to undertake independent needs assessments. Some 206 national NGOs are authorized to operate, including 12 added in December.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

43. A total of 27 United Nations staff members, 26 of whom are UNRWA staff and 1 from the United Nations Development Programme, are still detained or missing. Since the beginning of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including 20 staff members of the United Nations, of whom 17 were UNRWA staff members. Among those killed were also 54 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. In addition, many staff members of international and national NGOs are reported to have been killed.

III. Observations

44. As I take office, the Syrian Arab Republic is entering the sixth year of a conflict that has devastated the country and left hundreds of thousands of its people dead. The magnitude of the suffering is difficult to take in. Some 13.5 million people, including 5.8 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance every day. Nearly half the pre-conflict population of the country is displaced. Some 6.3 million people have been displaced within its borders and another 4.8 million have become refugees abroad. Vulnerable groups, in particular, are suffering without support structures in place to ensure their protection. An entire generation of children is growing up knowing nothing but war. I am determined to work to alleviate the suffering and help to bring the conflict to an end.

45. During the period under review, nowhere was the complexity of the conflict more manifest than in besieged eastern Aleppo, which was destroyed largely by relentless bombing, whose citizens were terrorized from without and within, and many areas of which were taken over by military force before the final few areas were evacuated in December. The destruction was catastrophic. There were distressing reports of killings, disappearances and forced conscriptions. I am particularly concerned about the fate of those whose whereabouts remain unknown. While the United Nations continues to remind all parties to the conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law, I also reiterate the call that my predecessor made many times, namely, for the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

46. For those who were displaced within the city of Aleppo or to the western Aleppo countryside and Idlib, their challenges are far from over. The cold winter has exacerbated an already dire situation. The United Nations and its partners, in particular ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, but also the Syrian organizations working from Gaziantep, Turkey, have been heroic in their efforts. We must ensure that we continue to provide the support needed to the displaced but also that longer-term protection concerns, including the right to return, and property rights are taken into account.

47. In Aleppo and nationwide, humanitarian needs continue to outstrip our ability to respond. Security continues to restrict access in some areas, but governmental bureaucratic delays have also limited the ability of the United Nations to reach those most in need. It is imperative that the United Nations and its humanitarian partners be granted safe, unimpeded and sustained access to all those in need. This includes

the millions who remain in besieged or hard-to-reach locations. Such access has not been forthcoming in recent months, culminating in December, when the United Nations reached less than 1 per cent of beneficiaries included in the monthly inter-agency convoy plan. I call upon all those with influence to do their utmost to allow the United Nations to do its work and assist those in need.

48. Notwithstanding these significant challenges, 2017 has begun with a moment of respite from violent attacks for some. Diplomacy by the Russian Federation and Turkey led to a nationwide ceasefire on 30 December, which, notwithstanding some isolated breaches, appears to be holding, by and large. As with all efforts to save civilian lives in the country, the United Nations welcomes this ceasefire. I express my hope that it will bring with it the stated goal of ensuring unhindered humanitarian access, and I look forward to working with all parties in seeing the ceasefire translate into concrete humanitarian gains, which have yet to materialize.

49. The upcoming meeting in Astana represents an opportunity for a meaningful contribution to the development of an inclusive political process and a potential step towards intra-Syrian negotiations to be convened in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations. Negotiations stand the greatest chance of success if they take place with a clear agenda to address the political root causes of the conflict. In preparation for the such negotiations, I have been in contact with stakeholders in the Syrian crisis, including by writing to the Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkey to express United Nations support for their efforts and to seek their assistance in attaining our shared goal of preparing the Syrian parties to negotiate genuinely and constructively on the establishment and executive powers of a credible and inclusive governance arrangement that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them to independently and democratically determine their own future. Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and the Geneva Communiqué remain the foundation of and contain the guiding principles for United Nations mediation efforts in this regard.

United Nations S/2017/59

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 January 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 19 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a briefing for media representatives held by Lieutenant General Sergey Rudskoy, Chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Briefing for media representatives, held by the Chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces

From 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire — which does not apply to the international terrorist groups Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusrah Front — came into force throughout Syria.

The ceasefire is being monitored 24 hours a day by the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission.

The ceasefire is generally being observed, despite several acts of provocation against Syrian forces and opposition groups from Nusrah Front terrorists.

There is a downward trend in the number of violations over a 24 hour period. This creates favourable conditions for negotiations with the opposition, to be held in Astana on 23 January 2017, for a peaceful resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arabic Republic is receiving communications from the representatives of various opposition groups wishing to participate in the negotiations in Astana.

In turn, the Russian Ministry of Defence supports increasing the number of participants from the opposition. However, the negotiating process must include those opposition representatives with a real influence on armed units on the ground.

The prerequisite for participation in the negotiations is written confirmation that a specific armed group has joined the ceasefire, indicating its size, the territory that it controls and the State that will act as a guarantor of compliance with the terms of the truce.

Over the past two months, Russian experts have been carrying out the difficult and sensitive work of handling communications from opposition representatives.

The aim is to create conditions for negotiations in Astana that ensure a genuine dialogue among all responsible stakeholders for the good of the Syrian people.

The operational situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

Operations carried out by the United States-led coalition group near the Iraqi city of Mosul have largely led to most ISIL forces being pushed into the eastern part of Syria where, almost unhindered, they are redeploying their weapons, explosives and troops towards Palmyra, Dayr al-Zawr and the city of Bab, which borders Turkey.

Moreover, we have received information, confirmed by several sources, about a large amount of explosives being transferred to the Palmyra area in order for ISIL terrorists to destroy that city's historic world heritage sites.

Government troops, supported by the Russian Air Force, are currently engaged in offensive operations against ISIL fighters near Palmyra.

A challenging situation is facing the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which has been besieged by ISIL terrorists for around three years.

Using their overwhelming numerical superiority, fighters are incessantly attacking the positions of Syrian troops. If the city is captured, a true genocide awaits its residents. The population of Dayr al-Zawr could be wiped out entirely.

The city's garrison is continuing to resist ISIL terrorists with the support of the Russian Air Force. The necessary measures are being taken to support Syrian army defence units and to stabilize the situation.

On 12 January 2017, representatives of the Russian and Turkish air forces signed a memorandum on flight security and the prevention of air incidents during operations in the Syrian Arab Republic.

This document provides an unprecedented basis for conducting joint operations in Syria to eliminate international terrorist groups.

Today, the Russian and Turkish air forces have carried out their first joint air operation against ISIL over the suburbs of the city of Bab in Aleppo governorate.

The air operation, approved by the Syrian authorities, involved nine attack aircraft of the Russian Air Forces (four Su-24M aircraft, four Su-25 aircraft and one Su-34 bomber) and eight aircraft of the Turkish Air Forces (four F-16 aircraft and four F-4 aircraft).

A total of 36 sites were targeted for strikes.

These were all agreed earlier by the chiefs of staff and aviation command of both countries.

Over the past two days, supplementary reconnaissance of the targets was carried out using unmanned aerial vehicle units and space reconnaissance assets.

The initial results of the strikes carried out against ISIL terrorists show that the joint actions taken by the Russian and Turkish air forces have been highly effective.

The Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides is continuing to work for the restoration of peace in the city of Aleppo.

Specialists from the International Mine Action Centre of the Russian Armed Forces have cleared mines from over 200 socially significant facilities, from 3,210 buildings on an area covering more than 2,000 hectares and from 709 kilometres of roads. They have also defused 26,395 explosive devices.

This has enabled more than 10,000 residents to return to their homes in the eastern neighbourhoods of the city.

Doctors from the Russian Ministry of Defence hospital have provided assistance to more than 5,000 people, including 1,847 children.

In the districts of Aleppo liberated from terrorists, Russian military police officers have provided assistance in rebuilding the law enforcement agencies and in organizing their work for the safety of the public.

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides is continuing to distribute hot meals and supply urgent necessities to residents from eastern neighbourhoods of the city.

Russian officers are also continuing to work for the restoration of peace in other areas of Syria.

The local leaders of 1,135 populated areas have now signed agreements to join the reconciliation process.

The roads, infrastructure and public amenities destroyed by warfare in these areas are being rebuilt and the water and electricity supply is being restored, thereby establishing all the conditions for a return to a life of peace.

This work is actively under way in Damascus governorate. One of the most recent examples is remedial work in the Wadi Barada River Valley.

Over 5 million residents of Syria's capital city were left without water since early January 2017, after a water station in Ayn al-Fijah was disabled by terrorist sabotage.

Russian officers were directly involved in organizing the reconciliation of opposing sides in nine populated areas.

As a result, 2,274 fighters ended their resistance. The vast majority laid down their weapons and returned to civilian life. Fighters not wishing to remain in the reconciled areas were given an opportunity to depart with their families to Idlib governorate.

The outcome of these actions has been a return to peace in the Wadi Barada Valley and the repair of the water supply system. The water supply to Damascus will shortly be fully restored. This work will also continue in other parts of Syria.

United Nations S/2017/60

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 January 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 23 January 2017 from the Ombudsperson addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit herewith the thirteenth report of the Office of the Ombudsperson, pursuant to paragraph 20 (c) of annex II to Security Council resolution 2253 (2015), according to which the Ombudsperson shall submit biannual reports to the Council summarizing her activities. The report describes the activities of the Office during the period since the previous report was issued, covering the period from 1 August 2016 to 23 January 2017.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Catherine **Marchi-Uhel**
Ombudsperson

17-01005 (E) 060217

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Report of the Office of the Ombudsperson pursuant to Security Council resolution 2253 (2015)

I. Background

1. The present report provides an update on the activities undertaken by the Office of the Ombudsperson since the issuance of the twelfth report of the Office (S/2016/671) on 1 August 2016.

II. Activities related to delisting cases

General

2. The primary activities of the Office during the reporting period related to delisting requests submitted by individuals and entities.

Delisting cases

3. During the reporting period, eight new cases were submitted to the Office and accepted, including two repeat requests. The total number of delisting petitions submitted to the Office since its establishment was 78 as at 23 January 2017. Unless the petitioner requests otherwise, all names remain confidential while under consideration and in the case of denial or withdrawal of a petition.

4. In total, the Ombudsperson has submitted 68 comprehensive reports[1] to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities since the Office was established. During the reporting period, she submitted 3 reports and appeared before the Committee on one occasion to present one case.

5. Since the issuance of the twelfth report, the name of one individual has been retained through the Ombudsperson process.

6. Cumulatively, since the Office was established, 66 cases involving requests made to the Ombudsperson by an individual, an entity or a combination of both have been resolved through the Ombudsperson process or through a separate decision of the Committee. In the 64 cases fully completed through the Ombudsperson process, 46 individuals and 28 entities have been delisted, 1 entity has been removed as an alias of a listed entity, and 13 delisting requests have been refused. In addition, 3 individuals were delisted by the Committee before the Ombudsperson process was completed and one petition was withdrawn following

[1] The total includes one case concluded in 2011, in which the delisting request was withdrawn by the petitioner after the Ombudsperson had submitted and presented her report to the Committee. It also includes one case concluded in 2013, in which the Committee decided to delist the petitioner after the Ombudsperson had submitted her report to the Committee but before she had presented it to the same. The total does not include two additional cases concluded in 2013, in which the case of the Ombudsperson became moot following a decision by the Committee to delist the petitioners before the Ombudsperson had submitted her report.

the submission of the comprehensive report. A description of the status of all of the cases, as at 23 January 2017, is contained in the annex to the present report.

7. There are 8 cases pending before the Ombudsperson in the information gathering and dialogue phase and 3 cases pending before the Committee. The four requests submitted to the Office during the reporting period were presented by individuals. To date, in total, 70 of the 78 cases have been brought by individuals, 2 by an individual together with one or more entities and 6 by entities alone. In 38 of the 78 cases, the petitioner is or was assisted by legal counsel.

Gathering of information from States

8. In the eight new cases, 30 requests for information have been sent so far to 16 States. With respect to the three cases for which a comprehensive report was submitted to the Committee during the reporting period, there were four instances when a State from which information had been requested failed to respond. In addition to the responses received from States to which requests had been specifically directed, some Committee members provided information in response to the general circulation of petitions.

9. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson met on one occasion with officials in their capital to gather information directly on two specific cases. She also met with the authorities of three States in their respective capitals to discuss broader issues relating to the Ombudsperson process.

10. During the reporting period, on one occasion the Ombudsperson shortened the information-gathering period pursuant to paragraph 3 of annex II to resolution 2253 (2015), which provides the Ombudsperson the discretion to shorten the information-gathering period in cases where all the designating States consulted do not object to the petitioner's delisting.

Dialogue with the petitioner

11. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson and her Office interacted with all petitioners during the dialogue phase of pending cases, including through written exchanges, telephone discussions and face-to-face and videoconference interviews. The Ombudsperson also travelled to interview three petitioners in person.

Provision of comprehensive reports to interested States

12. Paragraph 13 of annex II to resolution 2253 (2015) stipulates that, if so requested, the Ombudsperson may provide a copy of the comprehensive report to an interested State (designating State or State of nationality, residence or incorporation) with the approval of the Committee, with any redactions needed to protect confidential material. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson received three requests for disclosure from States, all of which were approved by the Committee.

Access to classified or confidential information

13. A new arrangement for access to classified or confidential information was entered into with Canada during the reporting period. To date, there is one formal agreement with Austria and 17 arrangements, with Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa

Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, respectively. One arrangement concluded with the previous Ombudsperson contains language clearly indicating that the arrangement was between the State and the previous Ombudsperson personally. The Ombudsperson has engaged with that State, but has yet to obtain confirmation that the arrangement remains in force with her.

14. Efforts continued to expand the list of arrangements and agreements during the reporting period, and hopefully further progress will be made in the upcoming months. One State has confirmed that it is willing to enter into an information-sharing agreement, a draft of which is currently being finalized by the authorities of that State following engagement by the Ombudsperson with the Office of Legal Affairs and with the Permanent Mission of that State to the United Nations.

III. Summary of activities related to the development of the Office of the Ombudsperson

General

15. Activities to further develop and strengthen the Office of the Ombudsperson continued during the reporting period to the extent possible.

Outreach and publicizing of the Office

16. The Ombudsperson participated in outreach activities to the extent possible given the limitations on time and resources.

17. On 16 October 2016, the Ombudsperson participated as a commentator at the launching of a book on the power of due process, an event hosted by the Queen Mary University of London.[2] She specifically commented on procedural fairness in the Ombudsperson's process and how that process enhances the representation of the public interest. On 7 November, the Ombudsperson participated in an induction seminar for incoming Security Council members on the topics of sanctions and Security Council reporting, organized by the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs. She presented the context in which the Office had been established and the role of the Ombudsperson. On 22 November, in an open briefing to Member States, the Ombudsperson provided an update on the status of cases in the Office and discussed the use of confidential information in her practice. During the briefing, she also stressed the lack of improvement of administrative arrangements for the Office and the resulting impact on its independence. She also addressed the recent setback in relation to reasons letters provided to petitioners and the resulting impact on the credibility of the Ombudsperson mechanism and expressed her hope for a prompt return to a better practice.

18. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson continued to engage with various institutions of the European Union. Notably, she discussed with

[2] Devika Hovell, *The Power of Process: the Value of Due Process in Security Council Sanctions Decision-Making*, (Oxford University Press, 2016).

representatives of the European Commission recent developments in the jurisprudence of the General Court of the European Union relevant to the practice of the Ombudsperson. She also met with a judge of the European Court of Justice,[3] with whom she discussed various aspects of the practice of the Ombudsperson, including efforts to increase transparency and the issue of access to information. The discussion also covered fairness concerns arising from access to and reliance on confidential information that cannot be disclosed to the petitioner, an area of common interest to the Court and the Office of the Ombudsperson.[4]

Interaction with the Committee

19. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson appeared before the Committee on one occasion. On 8 August 2016, she presented her report in one case in which the petitioner was retained on the list.

20. As done previously, the Ombudsperson and staff supporting the Office have continued to engage regularly with the Coordinator and members of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. The Team has continued to provide relevant information in accordance with paragraph 4 of annex II to resolution 2253 (2015). During the reporting period, the Team assisted the Office in reviewing delisting requests and supporting materials that were in German or in Arabic. The Team also helped the Office with German- and Arabic-language communications with petitioners. Finally, the Team gave expert advice on issues relevant to particular delisting requests.

Liaison with States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations

21. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson and staff supporting the Office continued to interact with States, in particular States of relevance to the pending delisting petitions. They had several bilateral meetings with States interested in the work of the Office in order to discuss general issues, including issues related to possible options for increasing the independence of the Office. The Ombudsperson continued discussions with a number of States concerning agreements or arrangements on access to confidential or classified information. She also maintained contacts with the informal Group of Like-Minded States on Targeted Sanctions,[5] representatives of the European Union and representatives of the European Commission. The Ombudsperson also met with officials of several States in their respective capitals for general discussions and to obtain information regarding particular cases.

[3] The meeting between the Ombudsperson and Judge Allan Rosas took place in New York on 1 November 2016.

[4] Articles 105 and 190bis of the respective Rules of Procedure for the General Court and the European Court of Justice entered into force on 25 December 2016. These rules provide a framework for the procedural treatment of confidential information or material pertaining to the security of the European Union or of its member States or to the conduct of their international relations and the exceptions to the adversarial principle that may arise as a result.

[5] Comprising Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

Working methods and research

22. As done previously, casework conducted during the reporting period involved open-source research to collect information relevant to delisting requests.

23. The Ombudsperson also continued to follow developments and collected information with regard to relevant national and regional legal cases, including the judgment issued by the General Court of the European Union in the case of *Mohammed Al-Ghabra v. European Commission*.[6] Additional details on that judgment are provided below in the section on the relevance of the Office.

Website

24. The website of the Office (www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/ombudsperson) continues to be revised and updated.

IV. Observations and conclusions

Fairness and transparency of the process

Access to petitioners

25. The decision taken by the Committee on a delisting petition during the reporting period was premised solely on information gathered by the Ombudsperson and followed her recommendation.

26. During the reporting period, the Ombudsperson was unable travel to interview two petitioners in person because their countries of residence did not deliver entry visas in time. The Ombudsperson is satisfied that, given the particular circumstances of their cases, the situation did not jeopardize fairness to those petitioners. In the first case, the Ombudsperson had planned to travel to meet the authorities and interview the petitioner in early January 2017. However, in November 2016, she was informed by the Secretariat that, as a result of the consultancy nature of her contract, it could not extend her contract in time to approve travel in early January. In order to avoid imposing undue delay on the petitioner, and with a view to saving on costs, the Ombudsperson decided to prepone her travel in that case and to combine it with other travel. When it became clear that the relevant authorities would be unable to issue an entry visa in time, the Ombudsperson arranged a video conference with the petitioner with the support of a United Nations entity. That was possible only because the petitioner did not require

[6] Judgment of the General Court (Third Chamber), case T-248/13, *Mohammed Al-Ghabra v. European Commission*, (13 December 2016). Available from http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:62013TJ0248&from=EN. The case initially arose from the addition of Mohammed Al-Ghabra's ("the applicant") name to the sanctions list by the Committee on 12 December 2006 and its subsequent addition to the list of the European Union on 10 January 2007. The applicant launched two sets of proceedings before organs of the European Union: (1) a request for review by the European Commission of the addition of his name to the list of the European Union; and (2) an application, following the Committee's decision of 6 March 2013 to retain his name on the list, for annulment of (a) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 14/2007, in so far as it concerned him, and (b) Commission Decision Ares (2013) 188023 of 6 March 2013 confirming the inclusion of his name on the list of the European Union.

interpretation. The Ombudsperson has nonetheless requested to meet with the Ambassador of the relevant Permanent Mission to the United Nations to explore ways to avoid similar occurrences in the future, and hopes that that discussion will take place soon.

27. In the second case, the Ombudsperson informed the relevant Permanent Mission a month in advance of her plan to visit the authorities[7] and to interview the petitioner in country. However, the Permanent Mission could not deliver a visa because it had not received a letter from its capital authorizing the visit. The Ombudsperson first postponed her visit by a week to give that State additional time to issue the visa, which would have allowed her to combine that visit with previously arranged travel. However, the limited amount of information that had been gathered in that case minimized the need for an in-person interview. In addition, the petitioner could not be interviewed through videoconferencing because he required interpretation. While not ideal, the Ombudsperson therefore ultimately opted for a written dialogue and considers that doing so did not affect the overall fairness of the process in that particular case. The Ombudsperson subsequently met with the Permanent Representative of the relevant State, who assured her that pertinent information in the case would be provided, if available. The Ombudsperson is satisfied that a suitable procedure is now in place to prevent similar situations from arising in the future.

Reasons letters

28. During the reporting period, the Committee discontinued altogether its previous positive practice of providing increasingly substantive reasons letters that included large excerpts from the Ombudsperson's written analysis.[8] Given the importance of those letters to the transparency of the process and its overall fairness (and the perception thereof), it would have been useful for the Committee to maintain the previously established practice.

29. The Ombudsperson is aware that there are differences of views on the extent of the requirement to provide reasons for retention or for the termination of sanctions following the Committee's consideration of the Ombudsperson's recommendation.[9] The opinion has been expressed that the requirement to provide reasons is satisfied by the mere reference to the fact that the Committee has followed the Ombudsperson's recommendation to consider delisting or to retain a name on the list. The Ombudsperson is of view that such an interpretation would defeat the very purpose of the requirement. Where the Committee follows the recommendation of the Ombudsperson, it does not provide its own reasons but rather a summary of the reasons contained in the comprehensive report, specifying that those reasons are not attributable to the Committee as a whole or to any individual Committee member. For such a summary to adequately reflect the reasons, it must at a minimum address the arguments of the petitioner and fully

[7] The State of nationality and residence did not respond to the Ombudsperson's request for information and did not seek an extension of the time in which to do so.

[8] This trend, with respect to both retention and delisting cases, is described in detail in the eleventh report (see para. 41) and the twelfth report (see para. 30) of the Office of the Ombudsperson.

[9] This requirement is set forth in annex II to resolution 2253 (2015).

reflect the analysis contained in the Ombudsperson's comprehensive report. As indicated in the eleventh and twelfth reports, the practice of the Committee during the first year of the Ombudsperson's mandate showed that it is possible to do so.

30. The Ombudsperson firmly hopes that this positive trend will resume during the next reporting period. The Committee's consistency and reliability in transmitting extensive reasons to petitioners is a major step towards making the process more transparent and fair. In addition to jeopardizing fairness to the petitioner in specific cases, any setback in that respect would affect the general credibility of the Ombudsperson mechanism. It would also be ironic that such a setback would occur at a time when the perception that regional and domestic courts have of the mechanism is starting to improve. Finally, the practice of transmitting extensive reasons may be beneficial in encouraging and guiding the disassociation process undertaken by certain petitioners (see below).

31. A number of petitioners deny the accuracy of the information that initially led to their designation and that obtained by the Ombudsperson during the information-gathering phase. Others claim that the information does not show their association with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) or Al-Qaida. Certain petitioners admit, however, that they have had such an association. Those petitioners seek to be delisted on the grounds that they have severed their links with and disassociated themselves from those entities.[10] This is the category of petitioners for whom the human dimension embedded in the Ombudsperson mechanism is probably the most useful. This human aspect can complement the disassociation process undertaken by these petitioners. Disassociation is not an instant process. In a number of cases, the petitioners require support and guidance. Petitioners undeniably perceive the Ombudsperson as having a certain authority.[11] On the basis of that authority and the unique and privileged access she has to petitioners during the dialogue phase, the Ombudsperson is able to include in her analysis messages that acknowledge the efforts made by a petitioner as part of the disassociation process. If need be, she can also guide the petitioner with respect to any additional steps required to fully complete the process.

32. Such guidance is particularly important for petitioners listed by the Committee following or alongside a trial and conviction for conduct that was the same or similar to that which led to his or her listing. In a number of such cases, the disassociation process starts while the petitioner is serving his or her sentence. The Ombudsperson may draw inferences of disassociation from the passage of time since the impugned activities, especially where the period is not minimal. However, when the petitioner is incarcerated, his or her capacity for continued involvement in activities in support of listed entities is limited.[12] In those circumstances, the Ombudsperson searches for specific signs of disassociation during the period of the petitioner's detention or beyond if he or she has been released. Various signs of such

[10] A petitioner can make such a claim in support of either an initial request for delisting or a repeat request for delisting. See section 4.1.1 of the Ombudsperson's approach to analysis, assessment and use of information. Available from www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/ombudsperson/assessment-information.

[11] The mandate of the Ombudsperson is set by the Security Council. The Ombudsperson is appointed by the Secretary-General and the Committee has, so far, followed her recommendations.

[12] See section 4.1.3 of the Ombudsperson's approach to analysis, assessment and use of information Available from www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/ombudsperson/assessment-information.

disassociation may be observed, even while a petitioner is detained. Those include a genuine engagement in a deradicalization process; the making of efforts to avoid contact with radical elements and/or to discourage approaches made by such elements; and the accepting of responsibility for past conduct, even after having previously denied such responsibility at trial.

33. The Ombudsperson's comprehensive report may provide an acknowledgement of a petitioner's disassociation efforts and contain specific encouragement to pursue such efforts and/or provide guidance on how to do so. It is important that such elements not be omitted by the Committee when it communicates to the petitioner the reasons for the decision to delist or to retain his or her name on the sanctions list. Such elements can also be of use to detention authorities and probation officers who are responsible for the penal situation of certain petitioners.

Delay in notifying the petitioner in cases of retention

34. The Ombudsperson reiterates the suggestion included in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth reports that the situation resulting from the delay in notifying the petitioner in the event of retention on the list should be addressed.[13] For the reasons provided in those reports, the Ombudsperson suggests that she should be allowed, in the event of retention on the list, to advise the petitioner of the decision to retain the listing immediately after it has been taken, with a note indicating that the reasons will be provided within the 60-day deadline.

Cooperation with States and State support to the Office

35. States that had been generally supportive of the Office continued to express and demonstrate such support during the reporting period. Given that several States failed to respond to requests for information during the same period, the Ombudsperson reiterated the importance of such responses as part of the delisting process during her interactions with those States and, more generally, during briefings provided to Member States. Such responses are important even when States are not in a position to share information relevant to a specific request.

Independence of the Office

36. The twelfth report described the various options developed and presented by the Security Council Affairs Division, pursuant to paragraph 59 of resolution 2253 (2015),[14] at an informal meeting of the Committee on 17 June 2016. In the view of the Ombudsperson, those options provided a sound basis to remedy current deficiencies in the status of the Office and offered appropriate contractual arrangements to guarantee its independence.[15] However, the Ombudsperson was informed during the reporting period that the Committee was unable to agree to take action on the basis of any of those options. This situation is not surprising given the consensus rule by which the Committee reaches decisions other than those with

[13] See S/2015/533, para. 47, S/2016/96, para. 42, and S/2016/671, para. 31.

[14] In paragraph 59 of resolution 2253 (2015), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Office and to make the necessary arrangements to ensure its continued ability to carry out its mandate in an independent, effective and timely manner, and to provide the Committee an update on actions taken in six months.

[15] See S/2016/671, paras. 35 to 36.

respect to the merit of delisting requests. It is nonetheless regrettable given the importance of those arrangements for the credibility of the Office. On 4 November, the Committee reminded the Secretariat of the point made by the Security Council Affairs Division at the above-mentioned informal meeting that the Secretariat may be able to explore certain informal arrangements to address some of the concerns regarding the Office. On 27 December, the Secretariat informed the Committee that the following four informal measures had been put in place:

(a) The views of the Ombudsperson will be taken into account in the performance appraisals of the staff supporting the Office;

(b) All recruitment processes for the staff supporting the Office will involve the Ombudsperson and her views will be taken into account;

(c) The Ombudsperson will have access to all material, including electronic drives, relevant to the work of the Office;

(d) The Ombudsperson will have full editorial control of the Office website.[16]

37. The Ombudsperson welcomes the adoption of these informal arrangements, which will reinforce the independence of the Office. Although the consultancy contract and conditions of service under which the Ombudsperson is recruited do not necessarily reflect the importance of the function, the arrangements appropriately address almost all of the consequences of the contractual status of the Ombudsperson that affect the independence of the Office.[17] However, the lack of an independent Office with its own budget[18] cannot be resolved by way of informal arrangements. Nevertheless, the Ombudsperson is hopeful that further progress can be made by the Secretariat in relation to addressing the requirement for certification of service embedded in consultancy contracts, which covers both performance and attendance and is considered to be fundamentally inconsistent with the independent role and functions of the Ombudsperson.[19] The Ombudsperson is encouraged in this regard by the Secretariat's indication that it will continue to explore additional informal modalities with respect to some of the issues identified by the Secretariat and the Ombudsperson, where possible and in line with the rules and regulations of the Organization, and will keep the Committee apprised accordingly.[20]

Relevance of the Office

38. As noted above, the judgment of the General Court of the European Union in the case of *Mohammed Al-Ghabra v. European Commission*[6] contains an interesting pronouncement with respect to the existence of the Ombudsperson as a legal remedy that was available to the applicant in the case at hand. In particular, when determining the merit of his application for annulment, the General Court took into account the fact that the applicant had chosen not to pursue that remedy. Furthermore, the Court accepted that the Commission had applied the same review criteria as that used by the Ombudsperson. Responding to an argument raised by the

[16] S/AC.37/2016/NOTE.214.

[17] The arrangements generalize practices that had been applied unevenly during the terms of the previous and current Ombudspersons.

[18] Currently its budget comes under the special political mission for the Monitoring Team.

[19] See S/2015/533, para. 61.

[20] S/AC.37/2016/NOTE.214.

United Kingdom,[21] the Court found that there was no rational reason for failing to submit a delisting request through the Ombudsperson, in particular since the applicant claimed to have arguments to support the removal of his name from the Committee's list. The Court also found that the applicant's conduct[22] had done nothing to allay the reasonable suspicions that had fallen on him in the light of the information and evidence that had been considered. In response to an argument made by the petitioner relating to the source of information, the Court found that the Commission had correctly applied the same criterion as that used by the Ombudsperson, namely, to first of all seek to ascertain whether there was sufficient information to provide a reasonable and credible basis for the allegation of torture.[23]

39. The failure of applicants to avail themselves of that remedy has no impact on the admissibility of their application to the General Court.[24] However, in the light of the possible adverse inference the Court may draw from the failure to do so, the judgment may motivate individuals and entities that wish to be delisted to first seek delisting through the Ombudsperson's process prior to applying to the Court for annulment, or at least to do so concurrently.

40. The judgment reflects a positive assessment of the added value of the Ombudsperson's mechanism. It follows another judgment from the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom[25] and a separate opinion of judges from the European Court of Human Rights,[26] both issued during the first half of 2016, which also

[21] During the course of its review of the addition of this individual's name to the list of the European Union, the Commission had repeatedly informed the applicant that he had had the opportunity to submit a request to the United Nations Ombudsperson to be removed from the Committee's list.

[22] The applicant's conduct refers both to his failure to request delisting through the Ombudsperson process and to the withdrawal of his claims to the Court.

[23] This finding was made in the context of the applicant's complaint that the Commission had failed to consider whether the allegations made against him by the Committee had been based on information obtained through torture. The General Court ruled that the Commission had correctly found that, in the circumstances of the case, it was reasonable to rely on a general presumption that the Committee did not base its findings on evidence obtained through torture.

[24] Even if successfully delisted by the Committee following the recommendation of the Ombudsperson, an individual or entity can still turn to the Courts of the European Union, which can determine whether they should have been listed in the first place.

[25] Judgment of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, *Youssef v. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs* (27 January 2016). In this case, the applicant, who had been retained on the sanctions list following the recommendation by the Ombudsperson, was challenging on appeal the domestic implementation of sanctions. In dismissing Mr. Youssef's appeal, the Supreme Court did not rely only on the updated narrative summary of reasons for the listing, which had been posted on the Committee's website after it had decided to retain Mr. Youssef's name on the list. The Supreme Court also referred to some of the information contained in the letter providing reasons and the analysis of the Ombudsperson.

[26] Concurring opinion of Judge Pinto de Albuquerque, joined by Judges Hayiyev, Pechal and Debov in the judgment issued by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Al-Dulimi and Montana Management Inc. v. Switzerland*, Application No. 5809/08 (21 June 2016). In this case, the concurring judges considered that, as a matter of principle, nothing hindered the adoption of adequate substantive and procedural safeguards by the United Nations bodies, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, when they take binding decisions to impose sanctions on individuals and entities. The judges indicated that the Office was not an insignificant development, which showed that incremental changes in the system were possible, and noted that it could be further strengthened, if the political will were there.

demonstrated new interest in the review process of the Ombudsperson. Such views are encouraging and contrast with those expressed previously in several judgments issued by regional courts following the establishment of the Office. Those judgments barely acknowledged the establishment of the Office owing to it not offering guarantees of effective judicial protection.[27]

Conclusion

41. The reporting period has been marked by an unfortunate setback in terms of the transparency of the Ombudsperson process and fairness to petitioners as far as the content of reasons letters is concerned. It would be valuable for the Committee to revert to its earlier practice in this respect. The informal arrangements developed by the Secretariat are not as comprehensive or satisfactory as the options it had presented to the Committee to establish an independent Office of the Ombudsperson and to guarantee such independence. However, they appropriately address most of the concerns raised by the Ombudsperson in that regard, absent consensus within the Committee for a more formal and comprehensive solution to those issues. Further progress in both areas is important for the credibility of the Ombudsperson mechanism and for compliance with the basic requirements of independence and fairness, including an acceptable level of transparency, to which the Security Council has expressed its commitment. Additional progress in these areas is even more important now that the perceptions that regional and domestic courts have of the Ombudsperson mechanism have started to improve.

[27] See, for example, the judgment of the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union, *Commission and Others v. Kadi* (Joined Cases C-584/10 P, C-593/10 P and C-595/10 P) (18 July 2013), in which the court stated that effective review by the courts of the European Union was all the more essential in the absence of guarantees of effective judicial protection at the level of the United Nations. See also the judgment of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, Nada v. Switzerland, Application No. 10593/08 (12 September 2012).

Annex

Status of cases

Case 1, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
28 July 2010	Transmission of case 1 to the Committee
28 February 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
10 May 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
14 June 2011	Committee decision
1 September 2011	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 2, Safet Ekrem Durguti (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
30 September 2010	Transmission of case 2 to the Committee
26 April 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
31 May 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
14 June 2011	Committee decision to delist
12 August 2011	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 3, one entity (Status: delisting request withdrawn by petitioner)

Date	*Description*
3 November 2010	Transmission of case 3 to the Committee
14 June 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
26 July 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
2 August 2011	Withdrawal of petition

Case 4, Shafiq Ben Mohamed Ben Mohammed Al Ayadi (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
6 December 2010	Transmission of case 4 to the Committee
29 June 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
26 July 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
17 October 2011	Committee decision to delist
8 November 2011	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 5, Tarek Ben Al-Bechir Ben Amara Al-Charaabi (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
30 December 2010	Transmission of case 5 to the Committee
26 April 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
31 May 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
14 June 2011	Committee decision to delist
12 August 2011	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 6, Abdul Latif Saleh (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
14 January 2011	Transmission of case 6 to the Committee
17 June 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
26 July 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
19 August 2011	Committee decision to delist
8 November 2011	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 7, Abu Sufian Al-Salamabi Muhammed Ahmed Abd Al-Razziq (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
28 January 2011	Transmission of case 7 to the Committee
29 August 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
15 November 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
30 November 2011	Committee decision to delist
13 February 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 8, Ahmed Ali Nur Jim'ale and 23 entities[a] (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
17 March 2011	Transmission of case 8 to the Committee
23 September 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
13 December 2011	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
27 December 2011	Committee decision to delist six entities
21 February 2012	Committee decision to delist one individual and 17 entities
8 June 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

[a] Barakaat North America, Inc., Barakat Computer Consulting, Barakat Consulting Group, Barakat Global Telephone Company, Barakat Post Express, Barakat Refreshment Company, Al Baraka Exchange, LLC, Barakaat Telecommunications Co. Somalia, Ltd., Barakaat Bank of Somalia, Barako Trading Company, LLC, Al-Barakaat, Al-Barakaat Bank, Al-Barakaat Bank of Somalia, Al-Barakat Finance Group, Al-Barakat Financial Holding Co., Al-Barakat Global Telecommunications, Al-Barakat Group of Companies Somalia Limited, Al-Barakat International, Al-Barakat Investments, Barakaat Group of Companies, Barakaat Red Sea Telecommunications, Barakat International Companies and Barakat Telecommunications Company Limited.

Case 9, Saad Rashed Mohammed Al-Faqih and Movement for Reform in Arabia (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
19 April 2011	Transmission of case 9 to the Committee
21 February 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
17 April 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
1 July 2012	Committee decision to delist
13 November 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 10, Ibrahim Abdul Salam Mohamed Boyasseer (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
6 May 2011	Transmission of case 10 to the Committee
9 January 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
1 March 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
8 May 2012	Committee decision to delist
3 August 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 11, Mondher ben Mohsen ben Ali al-Baazaoui (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
1 June 2011	Transmission of case 11 to the Committee
19 January 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
1 March 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
30 March 2012	Committee decision to delist
10 July 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 12, Kamal ben Mohamed ben Ahmed Darraji (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
30 June 2011	Transmission of case 12 to the Committee
28 February 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
3 April 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
4 May 2012	Committee decision to delist
3 August 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 13, Fondation Secours Mondial (Status: amended[a])

Date	*Description*
7 July 2011	Transmission of case 13 to the Committee
14 December 2011	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
24 January 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
17 February 2012	Committee decision to amend
9 July 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

[a] Amended to be removed as an alias of Global Relief Foundation (QE.G.91.02.).

Case 14, Sa'd Abdullah Hussein al-Sharif (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
20 July 2011	Transmission of case 14 to the Committee
29 February 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
3 April 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
27 April 2012	Committee decision to delist
5 June 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 15, Fethi ben al-Rebei Absha Mnasri (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
4 August 2011	Transmission of case 15 to the Committee
9 March 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
17 April 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
2 May 2012	Committee decision to delist
3 August 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 16, Mounir Ben Habib Ben al-Taher Jarraya (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
15 August 2011	Transmission of case 16 to the Committee
9 March 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
17 April 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
2 May 2012	Committee decision to delist
3 August 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 17, Rachid Fettar (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
26 September 2011	Transmission of case 17 to the Committee
27 April 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
5 June 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
20 June 2012	Committee decision to delist
19 December 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 18, Ali Mohamed El Heit (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
5 October 2011	Transmission of case 18 to the Committee
2 May 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
3 July 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
19 July 2012	Committee decision to delist
19 December 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 19, Yassin Abdullah Kadi (listed as Yasin Abdullah Ezzedine Qadi) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
16 November 2011	Transmission of case 19 to the Committee
11 July 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
10 September 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
5 October 2012	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 20, Chabaane ben Mohamed ben Mohamed al-Trabelsi (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
21 November 2011	Transmission of case 20 to the Committee
23 April 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
5 June 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
20 June 2012	Committee decision to delist
19 December 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 21, Adel Abdul Jalil Ibrahim Batterjee (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
3 January 2012	Transmission of case 21 to the Committee
30 August 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
6 November 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
14 January 2013	Committee decision to delist
5 September 2013	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 22, Ibrahim ben Hedhili ben Mohamed al-Hamami (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
6 February 2012	Transmission of case 22 to the Committee
25 September 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
6 November 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
21 November 2012	Committee decision to delist
7 February 2013	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 23, Suliman Hamd Suleiman Al-Buthe (Status: delisted) (Repeated request)

Date	*Description*
23 February 2012	Transmission of case 23 to the Committee
9 October 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
27 November 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
10 February 2013	Committee decision to delist
30 August 2013	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 24, Mamoun Darkazanli (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
28 February 2012	Transmission of case 24 to the Committee
12 November 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
8 January 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
11 March 2013	Committee decision to delist
30 August 2013	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 25, Abdullahi Hussein Kahie (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
28 February 2012	Transmission of case 25 to the Committee
26 July 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
10 September 2012	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
26 September 2012	Committee decision to delist
19 December 2012	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 26, Usama Muhammed Awad Bin Laden (Status: delisted)
Ombudsperson case became moot following the Committee's decision of 21 February 2013

Date	*Description*
23 April 2012	Transmission of case 26 to the Committee
15 February 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
21 February 2013	Committee decision to delist

Case 27, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
7 May 2012	Transmission of case 27 to the Committee
11 February 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
7 May 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
7 May 2013	Committee decision to retain listing
12 June 2013	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 28, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
7 June 2012	Transmission of case 28 to the Committee
20 November 2012	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
8 January 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
8 January 2013	Committee decision to retain listing
29 January 2013	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 29, Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih Sughayr (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
25 July 2012	Transmission of case 29 to the Committee
9 April 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
21 May 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
20 July 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 30, Lajnat Al Daawa Al Islamiya (LDI) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
25 July 2012	Transmission of case 30 to the Committee
15 April 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
2 July 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
3 September 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 31, Abd al Hamid Sulaiman Muhammed al-Mujil (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
1 August 2012	Transmission of case 31 to the Committee
13 March 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
30 April 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
30 June 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 32, Mohamed ben Mohamed ben Khalifa Abdelhedi (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
19 September 2012	Transmission of case 32 to the Committee
5 March 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
16 April 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
1 May 2013	Committee decision to delist

Case 33, Mohammed Daki (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
12 October 2012	Transmission of case 33 to the Committee
28 May 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
30 July 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
16 August 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 34, Abdelghani Mzoudi (Status: delisted)
Ombudsperson case became moot following the Committee's decision of 18 March 2013

Date	*Description*
8 November 2012	Transmission of case 34 to the Committee
18 March 2013	Committee decision to delist

Case 35, International Islamic Relief Organization, Philippines, Branch Offices (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
13 December 2012	Transmission of case 35 to the Committee
5 September 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
1 November 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
3 January 2014	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 36, International Islamic Relief Organization, Indonesia, Branch Offices (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
13 December 2012	Transmission of case 36 to the Committee
5 September 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
1 November 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
3 January 2014	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 37, Jaber Abdullah Jaber Ahmed Al-Jalahmah (Status: delisted)[c]

Date	*Description*
4 February 2013	Transmission of case 37 to the Committee
5 September 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
1 November 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
3 January 2014	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

[c] Jaber Abdullah Jaber Ahmed Al-Jalahmah was relisted on the same date by a separate Committee decision.

Case 38, Moustafa Abbas (listed as Moustafa Abbes) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
13 February 2013	Transmission of case 38 to the Committee
12 August 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
13 September 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
30 September 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 39, Atilla Selek (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
13 February 2013	Transmission of case 39 to the Committee
2 October 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
13 December 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
31 December 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 40, Youssef ben Abdul Baki Ben Youcef Abdaoui (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
4 March 2013	Transmission of case 40 to the Committee
14 November 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
11 February 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
14 April 2014	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 41, L'hadi Bendebka (listed as Abdelhadi Ben Debka) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
12 March 2013	Transmission of case 41 to the Committee
14 October 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
3 December 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
18 December 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 42, Youcef Abbas (listed as Youcef Abbes) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
4 March 2013	Transmission of case 42 to the Committee
2 October 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
15 November 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
3 December 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 43, Said Yousef AbouAziz (listed as Said Youssef Ali Abu Aziza) (Status: delisted)
Ombudsperson case became moot following the Committee's decision of 26 August 2013

Date	*Description*
27 March 2013	Transmission of case 43 to the Committee
26 August 2013	Committee decision to delist

Case 44, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
2 May 2013	Transmission of case 44 to the Committee
4 February 2014	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
21 April 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
21 April 2014	Committee decision to retain listing
30 July 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 45, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
6 May 2013	Transmission of case 45 to the Committee
9 December 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
11 February 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
11 February 2014	Committee decision to retain listing
17 March 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 46, Yacine Ahmed Nacer (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
10 May 2013	Transmission of case 46 to the Committee
30 December 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
25 February 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
13 March 2014	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 47, Nabil Benatia (listed as Nabil ben Mohamed ben Ali ben Attia) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
3 June 2013	Transmission of case 47 to the Committee
12 November 2013	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
13 December 2013	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
31 December 2013	Committee decision to delist
25 August 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 48, Wael Hamzah Jelaidan (listed as Wa'el Hamza Abd al-Fatah Julaidan) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
17 June 2013	Transmission of case 48 to the Committee
19 March 2014	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
24 June 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
25 August 2014	Committee decision to delist
29 October 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 49, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
24 June 2013	Transmission of case 49 to the Committee
4 April 2014	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
24 June 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
24 June 2014	Committee decision to retain listing
10 September 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 50, Al-Haramain Foundation (USA) (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
5 September 2013	Transmission of case 50 to the Committee
30 June 2014	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
26 August 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
25 October 2014	Committee decision to delist
29 December 2014	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 51, Aqeel Abdulaziz Aqeel Al-Aqeel (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
28 October 2013	Transmission of case 51 to the Committee
18 August 2014	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
31 October 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
2 January 2015	Committee decision to delist
3 March 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 52, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
27 May 2014	Transmission of case 52 to the Committee
18 February 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
14 April 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
14 April 2015	Committee decision to retain listing
10 June 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 53, Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Jaffar 'Ali (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
13 June 2014	Transmission of case 53 to the Committee
9 December 2014	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
29 January 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
31 March 2015	Committee decision to delist
12 May 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 54, Abdul Rahim Hammad Ahmad al-Talhi (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
19 June 2014	Transmission of case 54 to the Committee
29 January 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
17 March 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
17 May 2015	Committee decision to delist
22 July 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 55, Ismail Mohamed Ismail Abu Shaweesh (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
23 June 2014	Transmission of case 55 to the Committee
10 November 2014	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
16 December 2014	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
2 January 2015	Committee decision to delist
17 February 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 56, one individual (Status: denied) (Repeated request)

Date	*Description*
5 September 2014	Transmission of case 56 to the Committee
21 April 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
19 June 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
19 June 2015	Committee decision to retain listing
10 July 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 57, one individual (Status: denied) (Repeated request)

Date	*Description*
9 September 2014	Transmission of case 57 to the Committee
8 June 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
27 July 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
27 July 2015	Committee decision to retain listing
20 August 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 58, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
30 August 2014	Transmission of case 58 to the Committee
29 June 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
24 August 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
24 August 2015	Committee decision to retain listing
30 October 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 59, Al Sayyid Ahmed Fathi Hussein Eliwah (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
30 September 2014	Transmission of case 59 to the Committee
12 May 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
19 June 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
18 August 2015	Committee decision to delist
2 September 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 60, Mohammed Ahmed Shawki al Islambolly (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
10 November 2014	Transmission of case 60 to the Committee
13 July 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
24 August 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
26 October 2015	Committee decision to delist
27 October 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 61, Yasser Mohamed Ismail Abu Shaweesh (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
19 January 2015	Transmission of case 61 to the Committee
7 July 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
24 August 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
9 September 2015	Committee decision to delist
6 November 2015	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 62, Abd al Wahab Abd al Hafiz (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
11 March 2015	Transmission of case 62 to the Committee
9 November 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
23 December 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
11 January 2016	Committee decision to delist
22 January 2016	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 63, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
12 March 2015	Transmission of case 63 to the Committee
10 November 2015	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
23 December 2015	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
23 December 2015	Committee decision to retain listing
12 January 2016	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 64, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
29 May 2015	Transmission of case 64 to the Committee
25 February 2016	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
20 April 2016	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
20 April 2016	Committee decision to retain listing
9 June 2016	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 65, Farid Aider (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
27 August 2015	Transmission of case 65 to the Committee
26 February 2016	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
20 April 2016	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
20 June 2016	Committee decision to delist
20 June 2016	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 66, one individual (Status: denied)

Date	*Description*
15 October 2015	Transmission of case 66 to the Committee
15 June 2016	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
8 August 2016	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
8 August 2016	Committee decision to retain listing
23 September 2016	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 67, Daniel Martin Schneider (Status: delisted)

Date	*Description*
3 February 2016	Transmission of case 67 to the Committee
29 April 2016	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee
17 June 2016	Presentation of the comprehensive report by the Ombudsperson to the Committee
5 July 2016	Committee decision to delist
22 August 2016	Formal notification to petitioner with reasons

Case 68, one individual (Status: Committee phase)

Date	*Description*
22 March 2016	Transmission of case 68 to the Committee
23 November 2016	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee

Case 69, one individual (Status: Committee phase)

Date	*Description*
8 June 2016	Transmission of case 69 to the Committee
30 December 2016	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee

Case 70, one individual (Status: Committee phase)

Date	*Description*
12 July 2016	Transmission of case 70 to the Committee
16 January 2017	Comprehensive report submitted to the Committee

Case 71, one individual (Status: Dialogue phase)

Date	*Description*
3 August 2016	Transmission of case 71 to the Committee
6 February 2017	Deadline for completion of the Dialogue phase

Case 72, one individual (Status: Dialogue phase)

Date	*Description*
9 September 2016	Transmission of case 72 to the Committee
9 March 2017	Deadline for completion of the Dialogue phase

Case 73, one individual (Status: Dialogue phase)

Date	*Description*
23 September 2016	Transmission of case 73 to the Committee
23 March 2017	Deadline for completion of the Dialogue phase

Case 74, one individual (Status: Information-gathering phase)

Date	*Description*
17 October 2016	Transmission of case 74 to the Committee
17 February 2017	Deadline for completion of the Information-gathering phase

Case 75, one individual (Status: Information-gathering phase)

Date	*Description*
17 November 2016	Transmission of case 75 to the Committee
17 March 2017	Deadline for completion of the Information-gathering phase

Case 76, one individual (Status: Information-gathering phase)

Date	*Description*
22 November 2016	Transmission of case 76 to the Committee
22 March 2017	Deadline for completion of the Information-gathering phase

Case 77, one individual (Status: Information-gathering phase)

Date	*Description*
28 November 2016	Transmission of case 77 to the Committee
28 March 2017	Deadline for completion of the Information-gathering phase

Case 78, one individual (Status: Information-gathering phase)

Date	*Description*
7 December 2016	Transmission of case 78 to the Committee
7 April 2017	Deadline for completion of the Information-gathering phase